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WITCHBLADE®

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DIGITAL EDITION
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TOP COW UNIVERSE

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WITCHBLADE®

created by **Marc Silvestri**, **David Wohl**, **Brian Haberlin** & **Michael Turner**

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city. During a brutal warehouse massacre, Sara bonded with the Witchblade, an ancient weapon that transformed her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings.

Previously... Sara's search into the cover-up that destroyed her father and the supernatural forces that surround her have led Sara, and the mysterious warrior, Ian Nottingham, to Paul Pisano, a former associate of her father, who died years ago. The duo discovered Pisano was a carrier for a Creosote, a parasite that animates deceased human hosts. Sara and Ian discover Creosote Pisano in possession of a Sickle Key, a supernatural relic that can open a pocket dimension, but it was, mysteriously, a key only Sara could use. The key revealed a secret library her father curated that held clues to the identity of his killer. The clues have led Sara to billionaire Kenneth Irons. Irons has money, power, and associates from the darkest corners of the underworld. Among them, a young member of the Franchetti crime family on the verge of his twenty-first birthday, enters the story...

"Tomorrow is My Turn"

Written by **Marguerite Bennett** • Line art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**
Colors by **Arif Prianto** • Letters by **Troy Peteri**
Edits by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt Hawkins** and **Phil Smith**

Cover A: **Marc Silvestri** and **Arif Prianto**
Cover B: **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**
Cover D (1/25) Homage Variant: **Marc Silvestri** and **Phil Smith**
Cover D (1/50): **Brett Booth**, **Sal Regla** and **Arif Prianto**
Top Cow Store Foil Exclusive: **Marc Silvestri** and **Arif Prianto**

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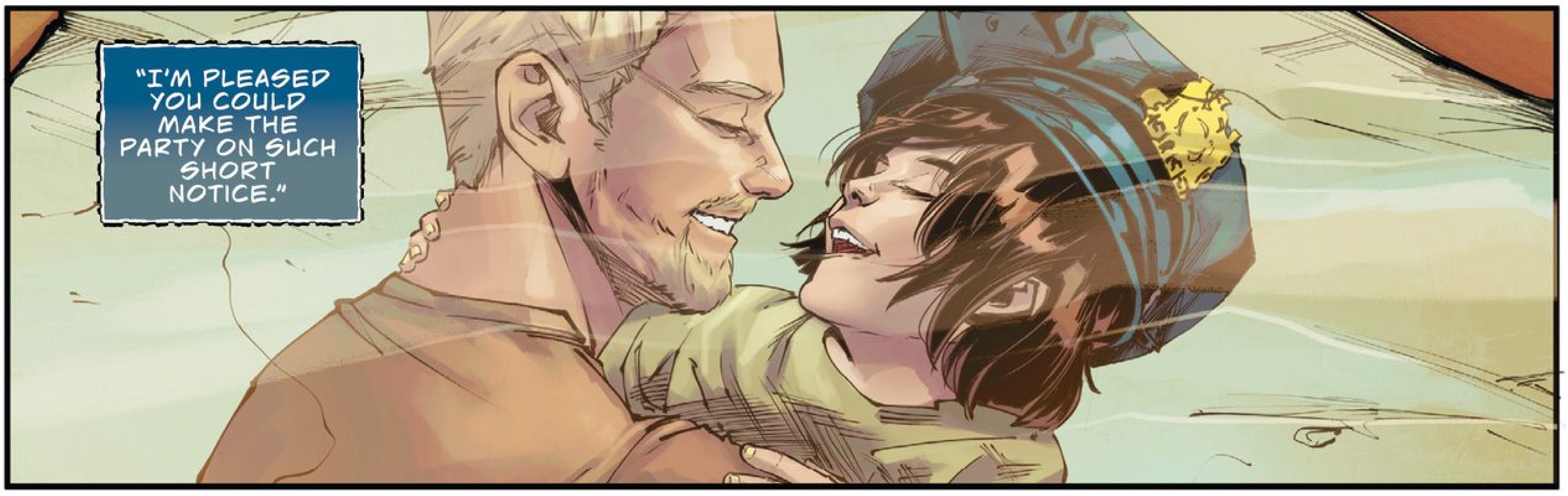
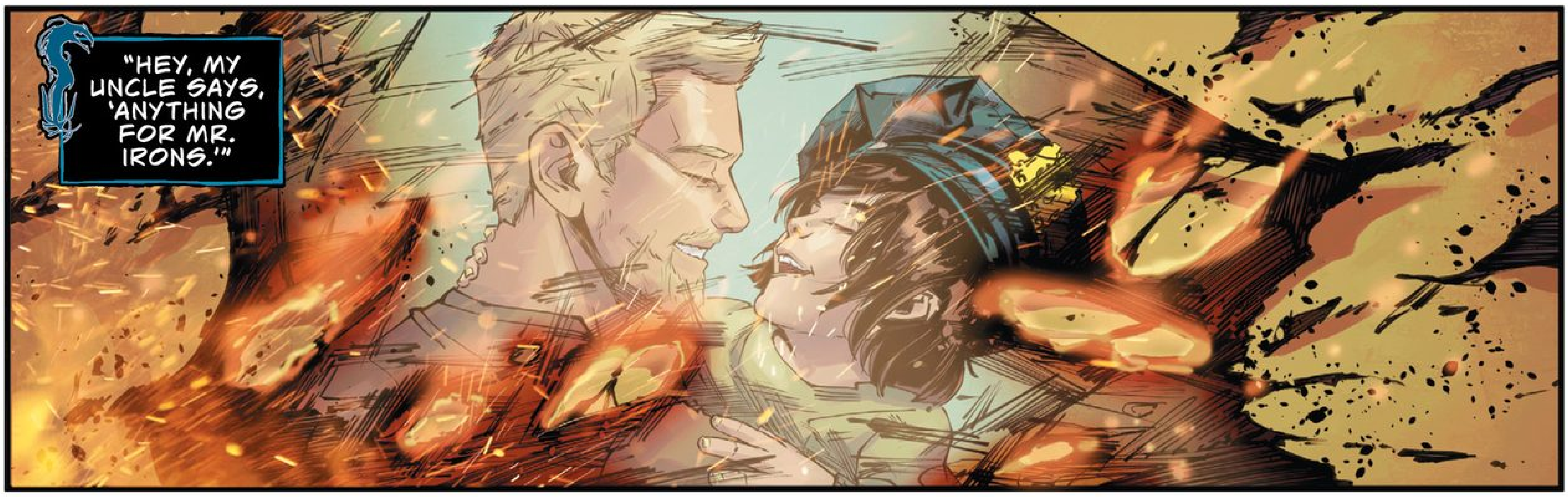
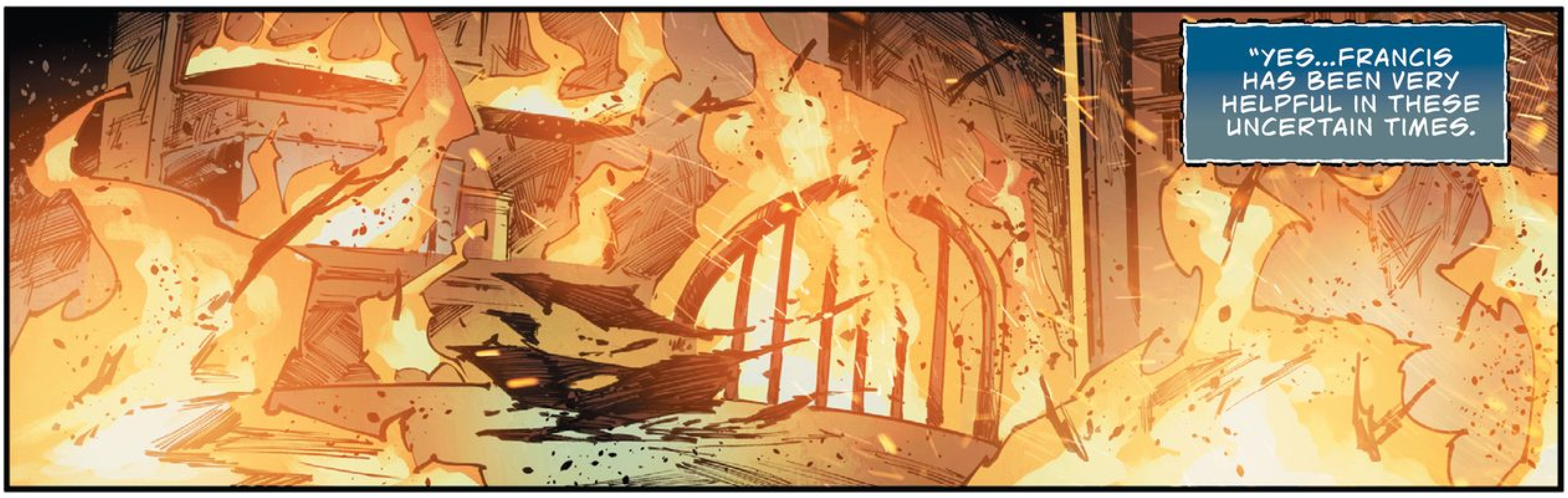
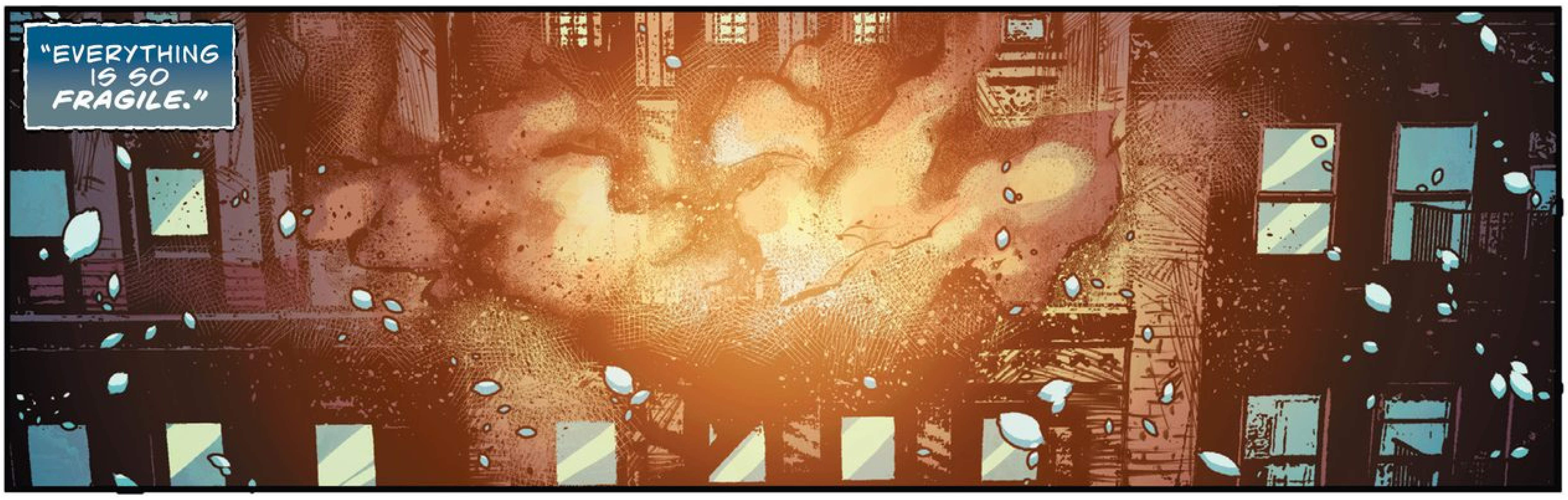
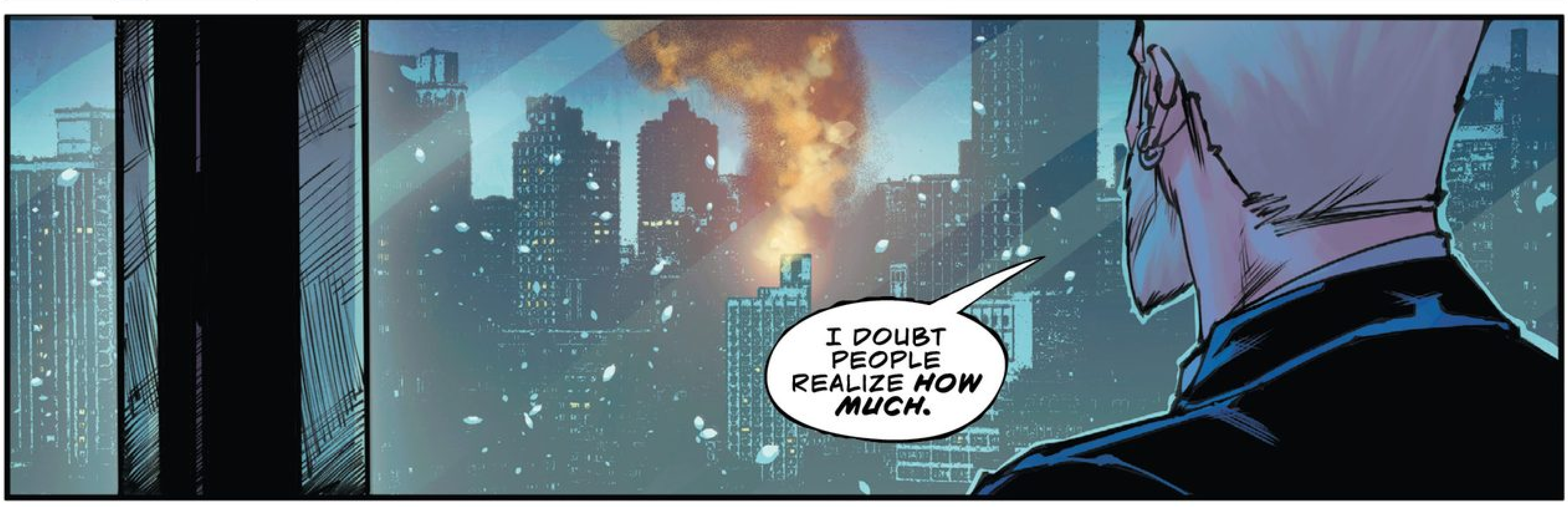
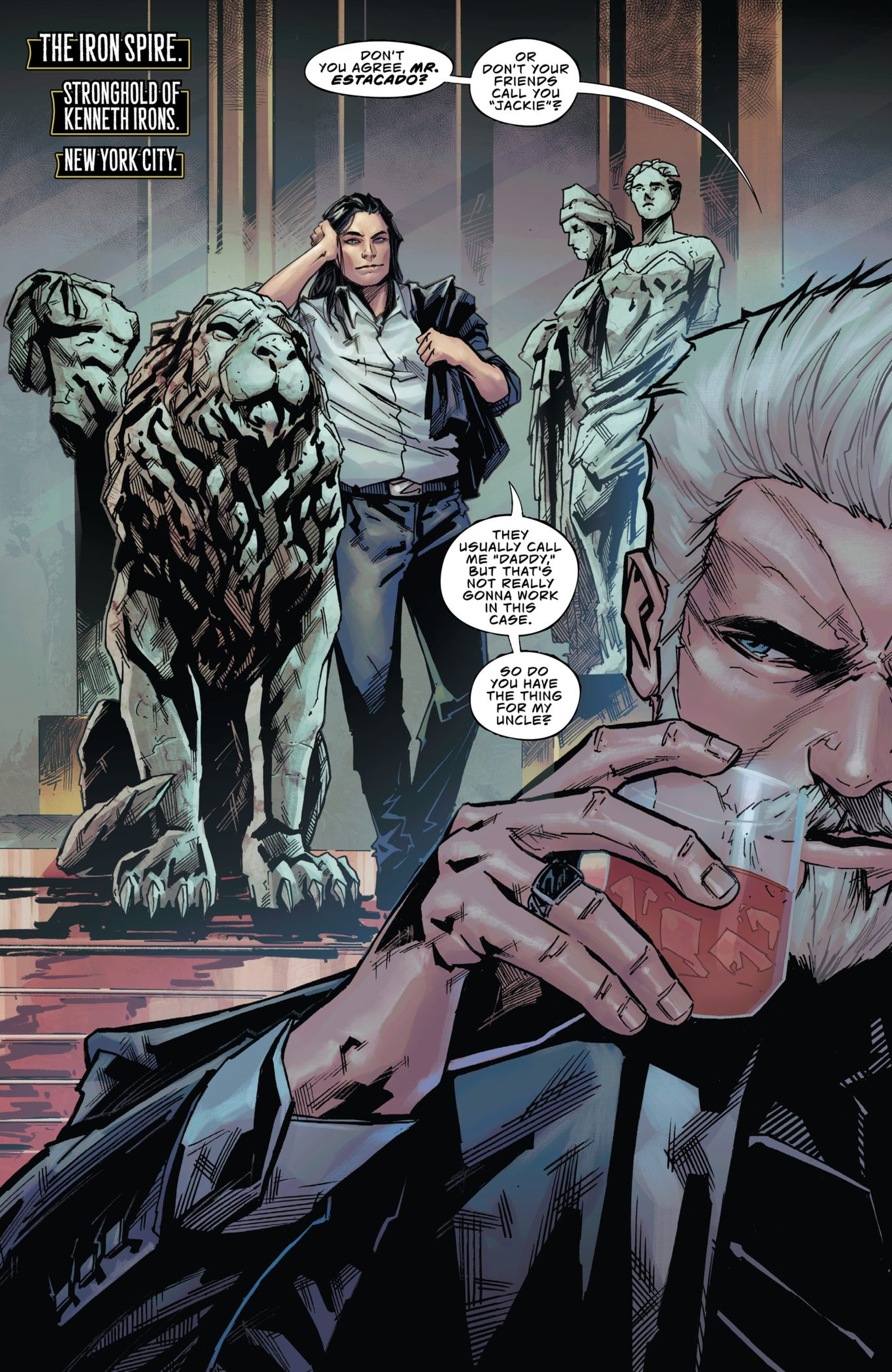

"I'M PLEASED YOU COULD MAKE THE PARTY ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE."

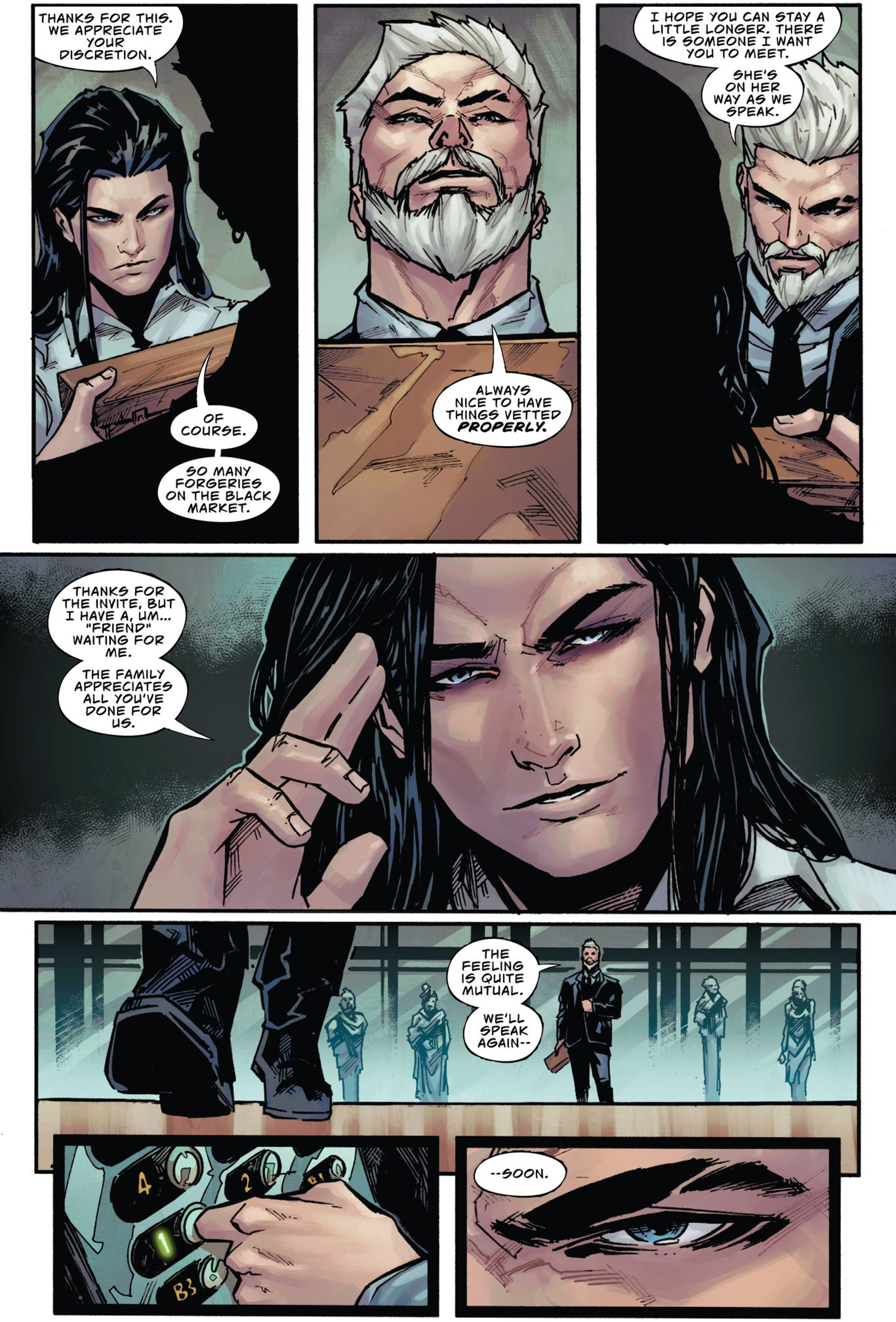

"HEY, MY UNCLE SAYS, 'ANYTHING FOR MR. IRONS.'"

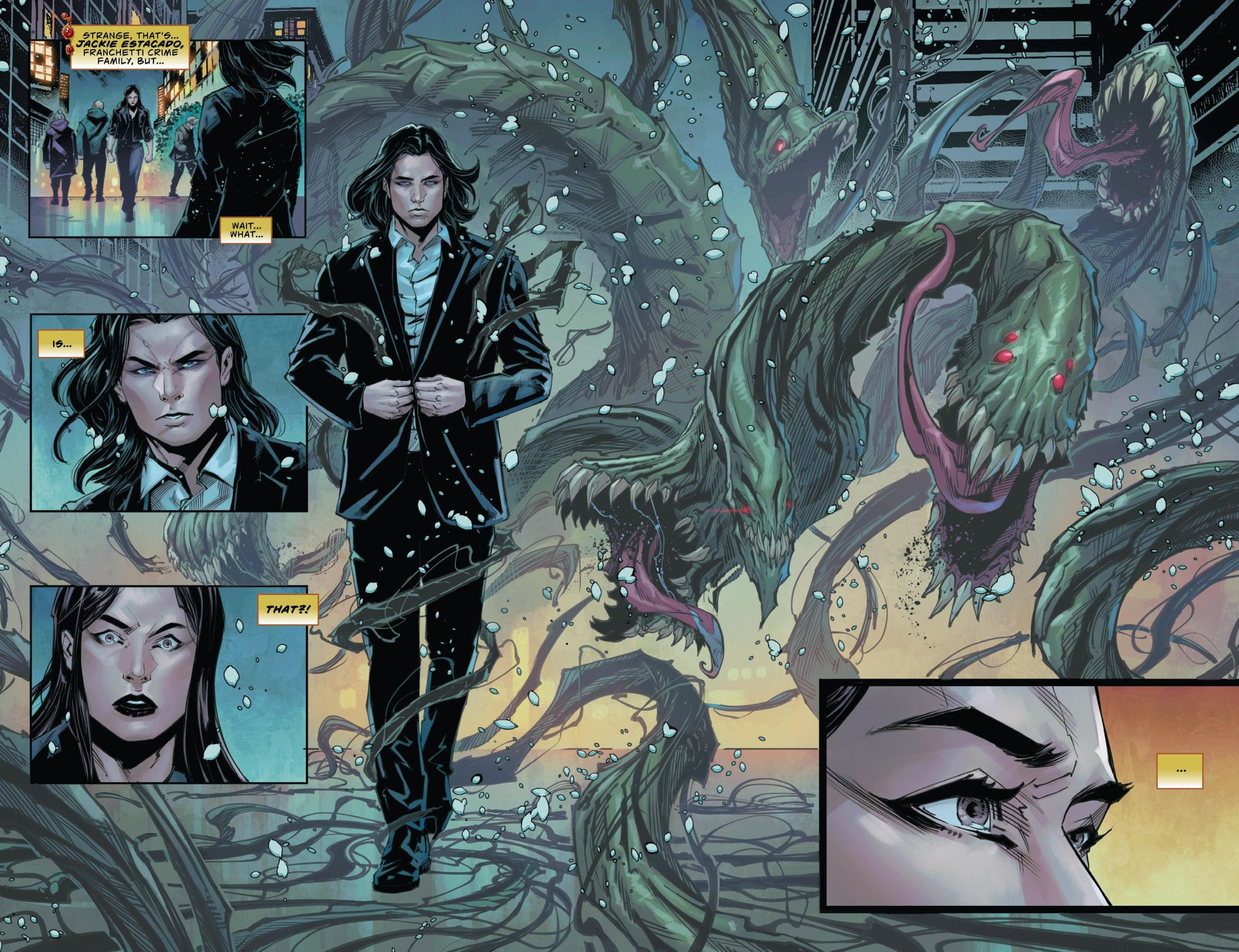

"YES...FRANCIS HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES.

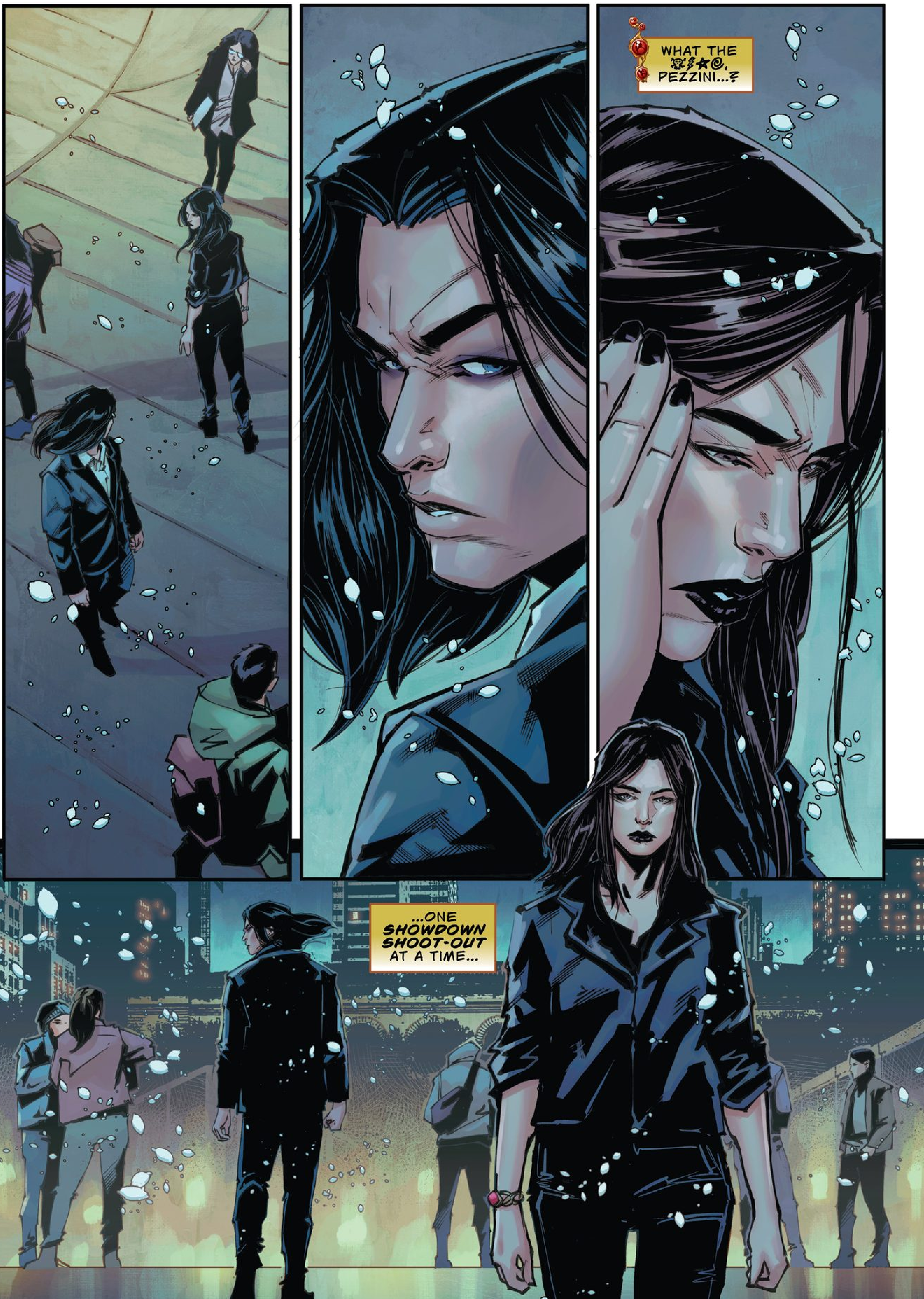

"EVERYTHING IS SO *FRAGILE.*"

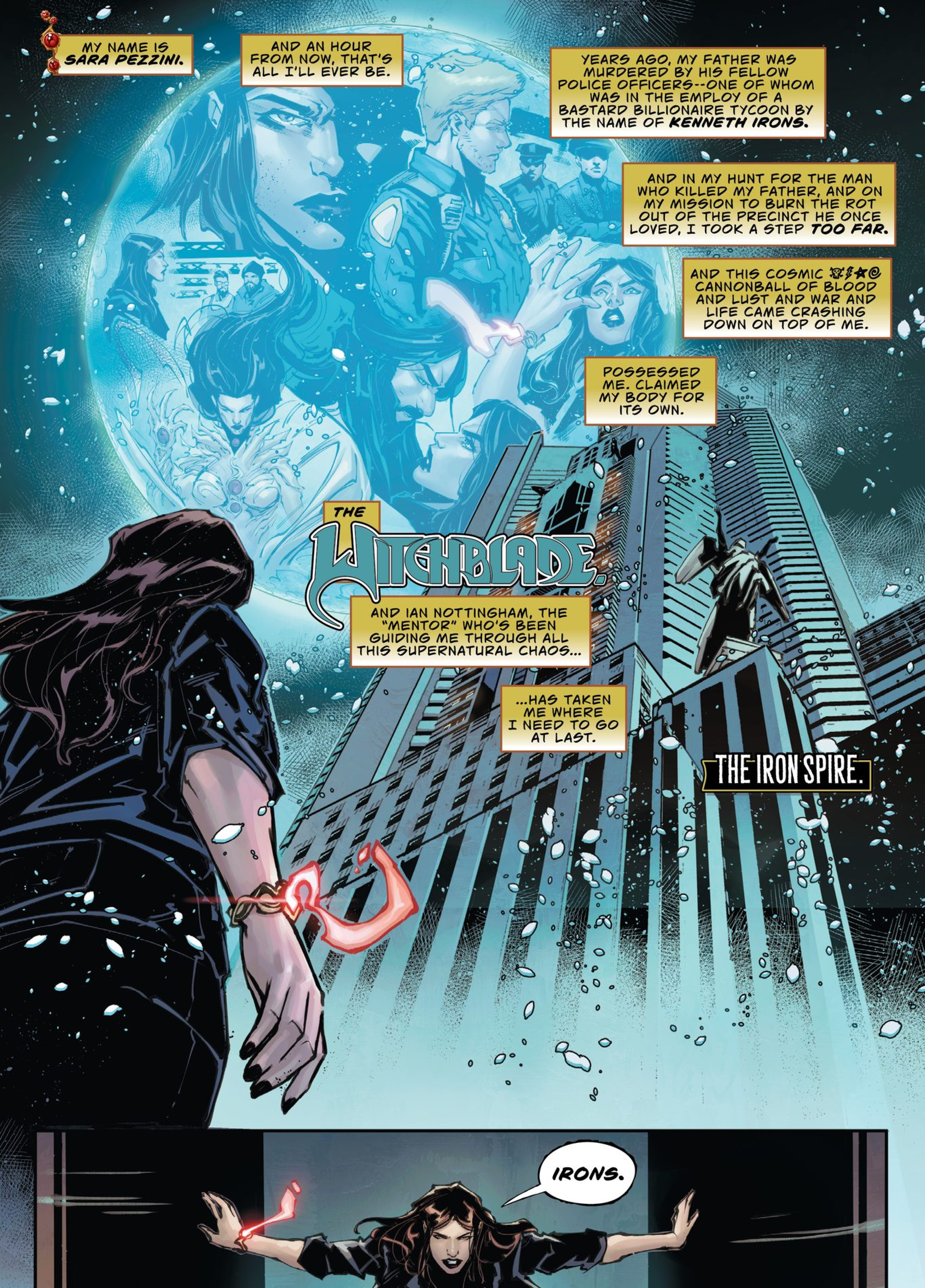

I DOUBT PEOPLE REALIZE *HOW MUCH.*

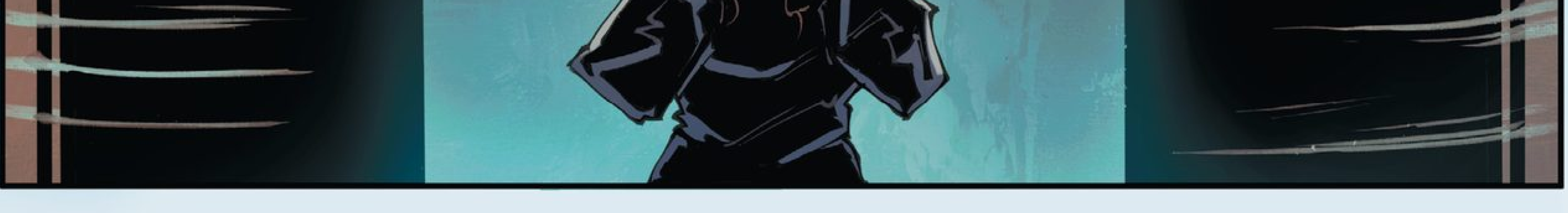

THE IRON SPIRE.
STRONGHOLD OF KENNETH IRONS.
NEW YORK CITY.
DON'T YOU AGREE, *MR. ESTACADO?*
OR DON'T YOUR FRIENDS CALL YOU "JACKIE"?
THEY USUALLY CALL ME "DADDY," BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY GONNA WORK IN THIS CASE.
SO DO YOU HAVE THE THING FOR MY UNCLE?

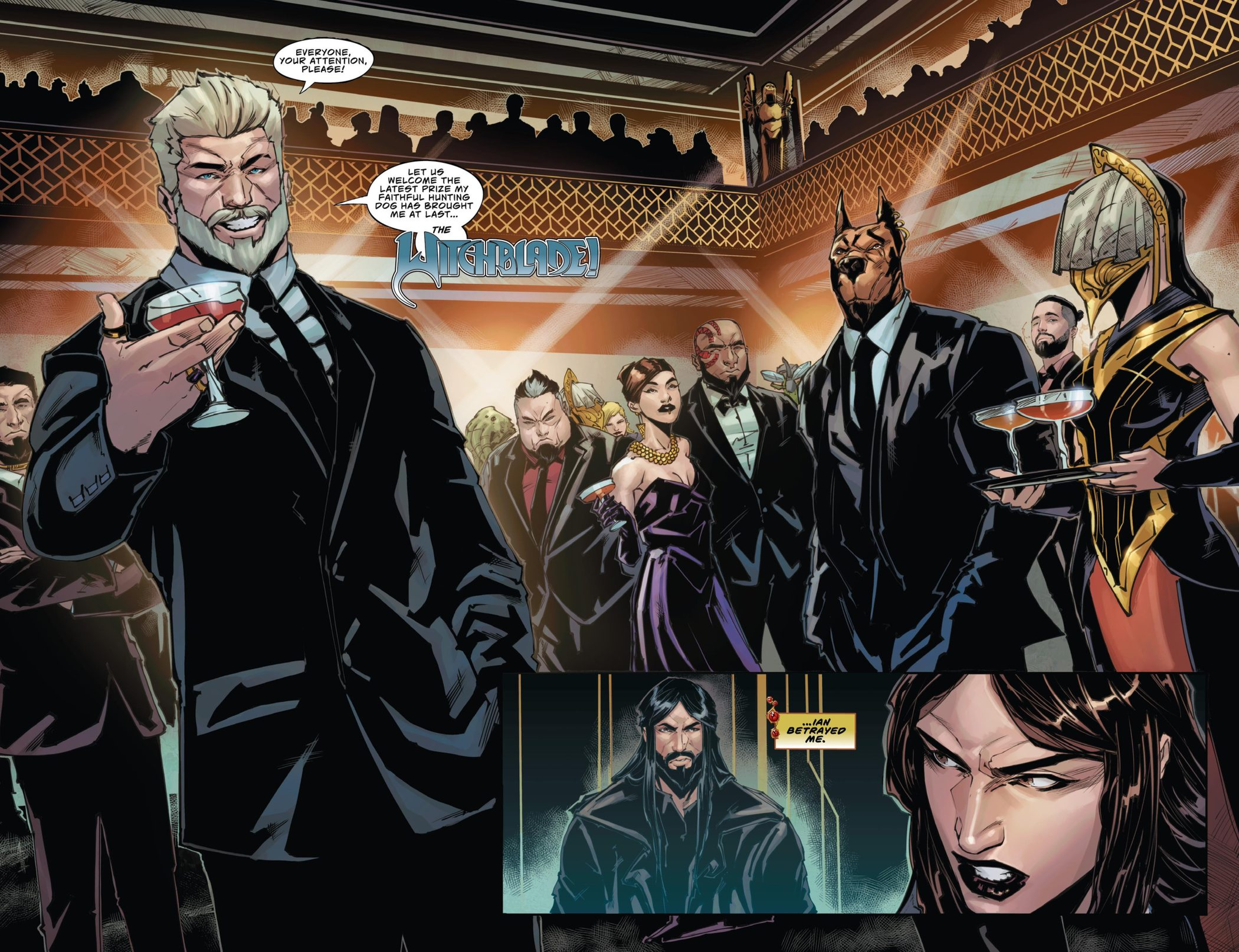

THANKS FOR THIS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR DISCRETION.
OF COURSE.
SO MANY FORGERIES ON THE BLACK MARKET.
ALWAYS NICE TO HAVE THINGS VETTED **PROPERLY.**
I HOPE YOU CAN STAY A LITTLE LONGER. THERE IS SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET.
SHE'S ON HER WAY AS WE SPEAK.
THANKS FOR THE INVITE, BUT I HAVE A, UM... "FRIEND" WAITING FOR ME.
THE FAMILY APPRECIATES ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR US.
THE FEELING IS QUITE MUTUAL.
WE'LL SPEAK AGAIN--
4
2
1
B3
--SOON.

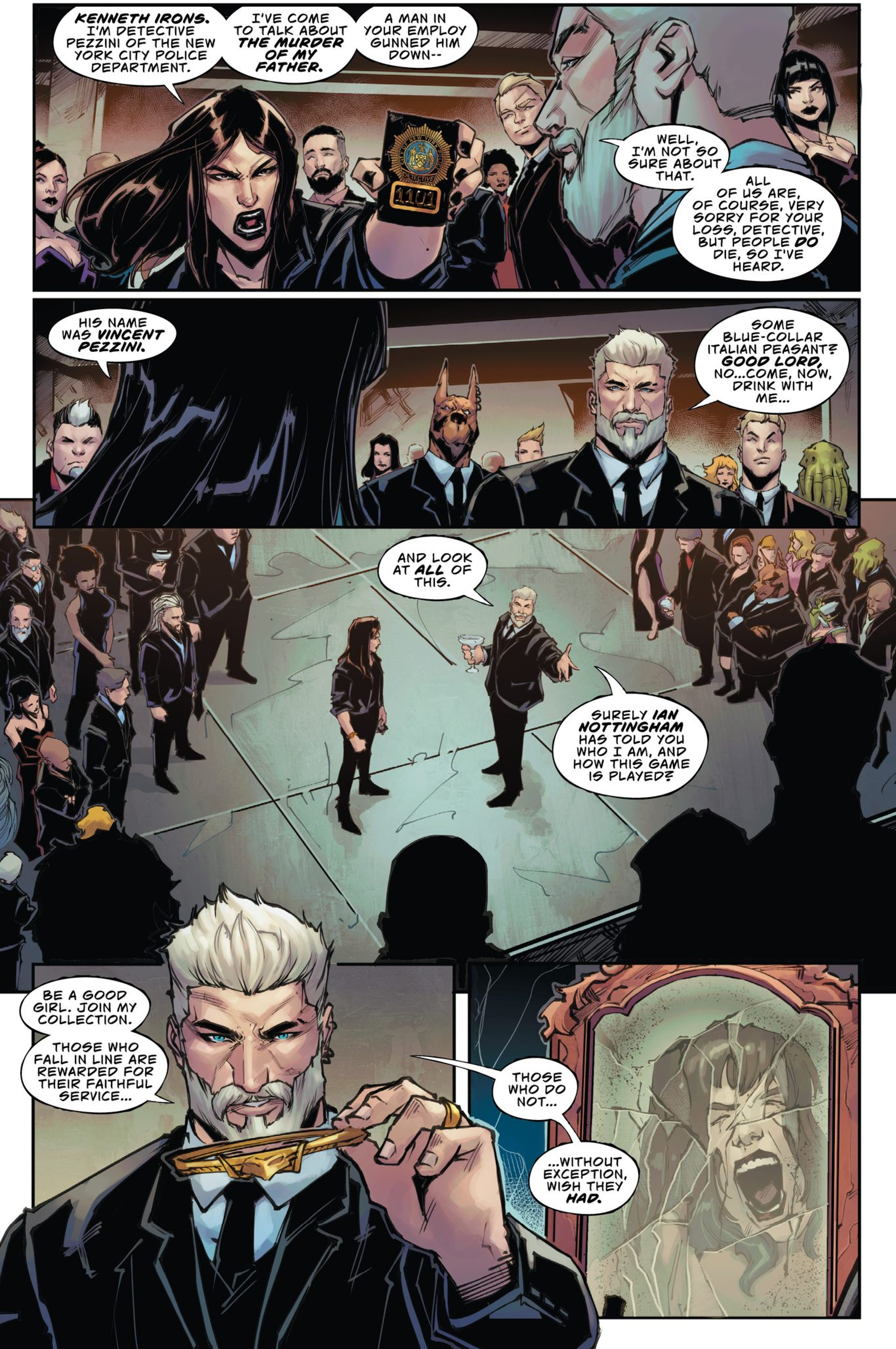

STRANGE, THAT'S... **JACKIE ESTACADO,** FRANCHETTI CRIME FAMILY, BUT...
WAIT... WHAT...
IS...
THAT?!
...

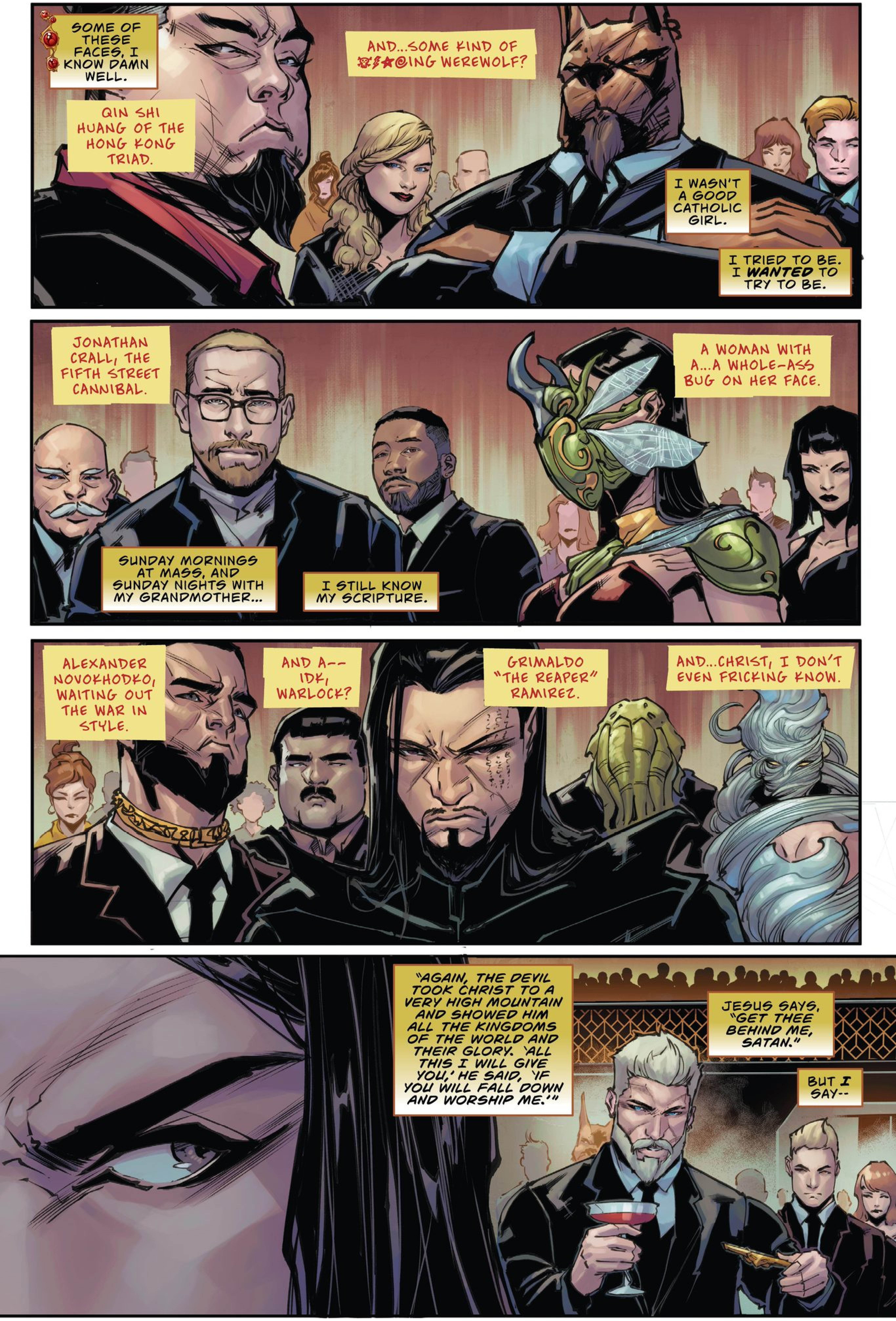

WHAT THE ☠ϟ★@, PEZZINI...?
...ONE ***SHOWDOWN SHOOT-OUT*** AT A TIME...

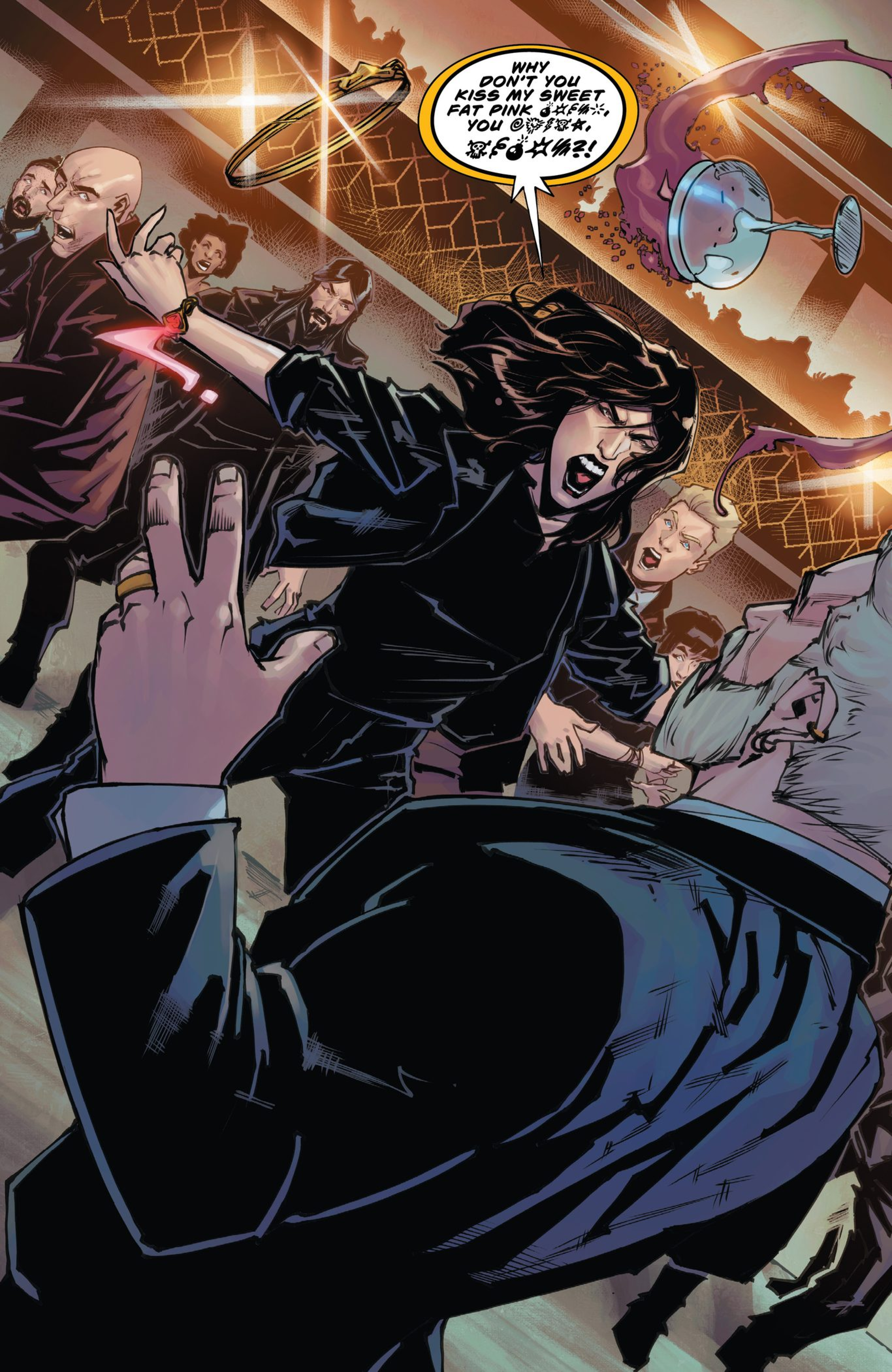

MY NAME IS *SARA PEZZINI.*
AND AN HOUR FROM NOW, THAT'S ALL I'LL EVER BE.
YEARS AGO, MY FATHER WAS MURDERED BY HIS FELLOW POLICE OFFICERS--ONE OF WHOM WAS IN THE EMPLOY OF A BASTARD BILLIONAIRE TYCOON BY THE NAME OF ***KENNETH IRONS.***
AND IN MY HUNT FOR THE MAN WHO KILLED MY FATHER, AND ON MY MISSION TO BURN THE ROT OUT OF THE PRECINCT HE ONCE LOVED, I TOOK A STEP ***TOO FAR.***
AND THIS COSMIC ☠⚡★@ CANNONBALL OF BLOOD AND LUST AND WAR AND LIFE CAME CRASHING DOWN ON TOP OF ME.
POSSESSED ME. CLAIMED MY BODY FOR ITS OWN.
THE WITCHBLADE.
AND IAN NOTTINGHAM, THE "MENTOR" WHO'S BEEN GUIDING ME THROUGH ALL THIS SUPERNATURAL CHAOS...
...HAS TAKEN ME WHERE I NEED TO GO AT LAST.
THE IRON SPIRE.

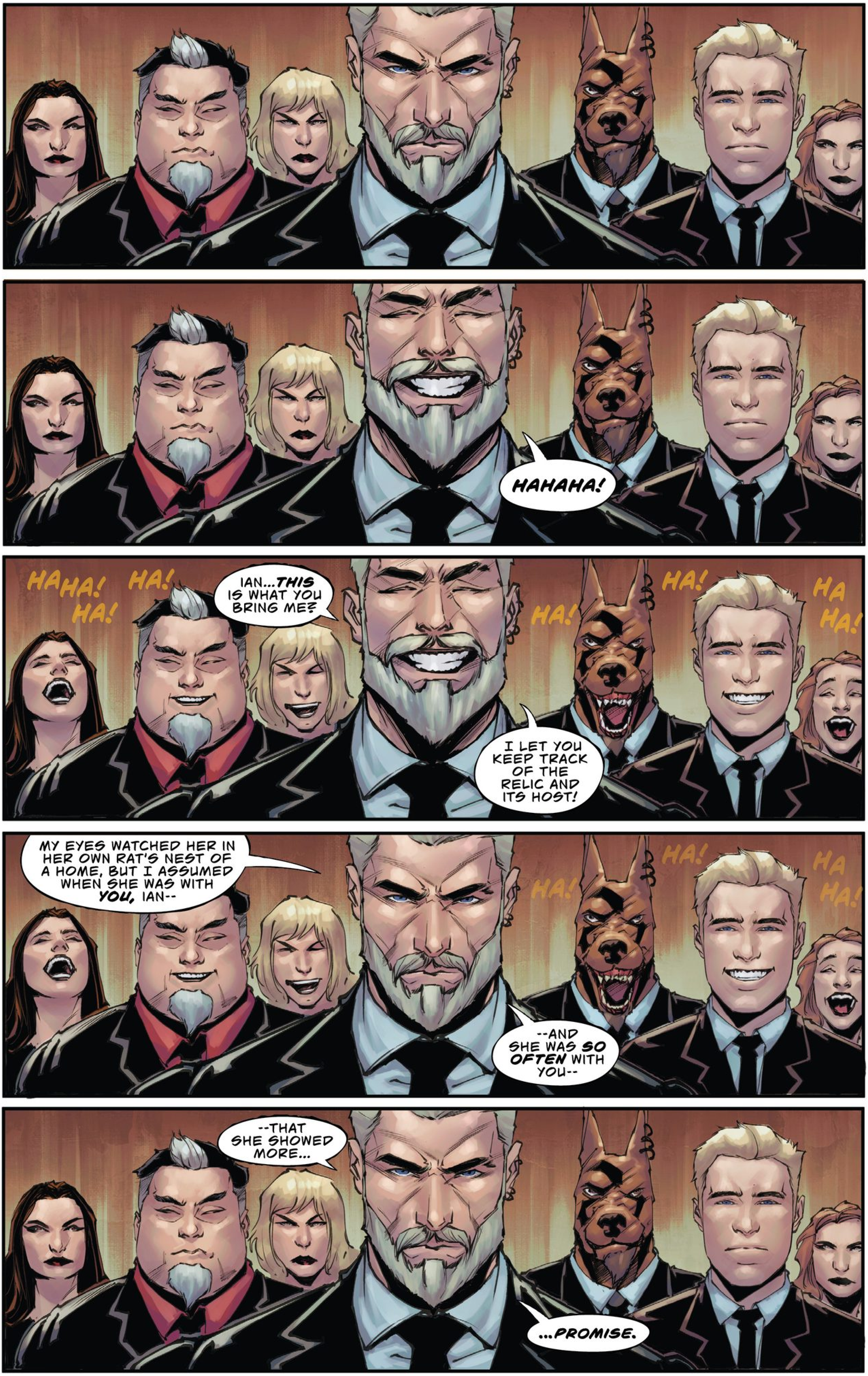

IRONS.

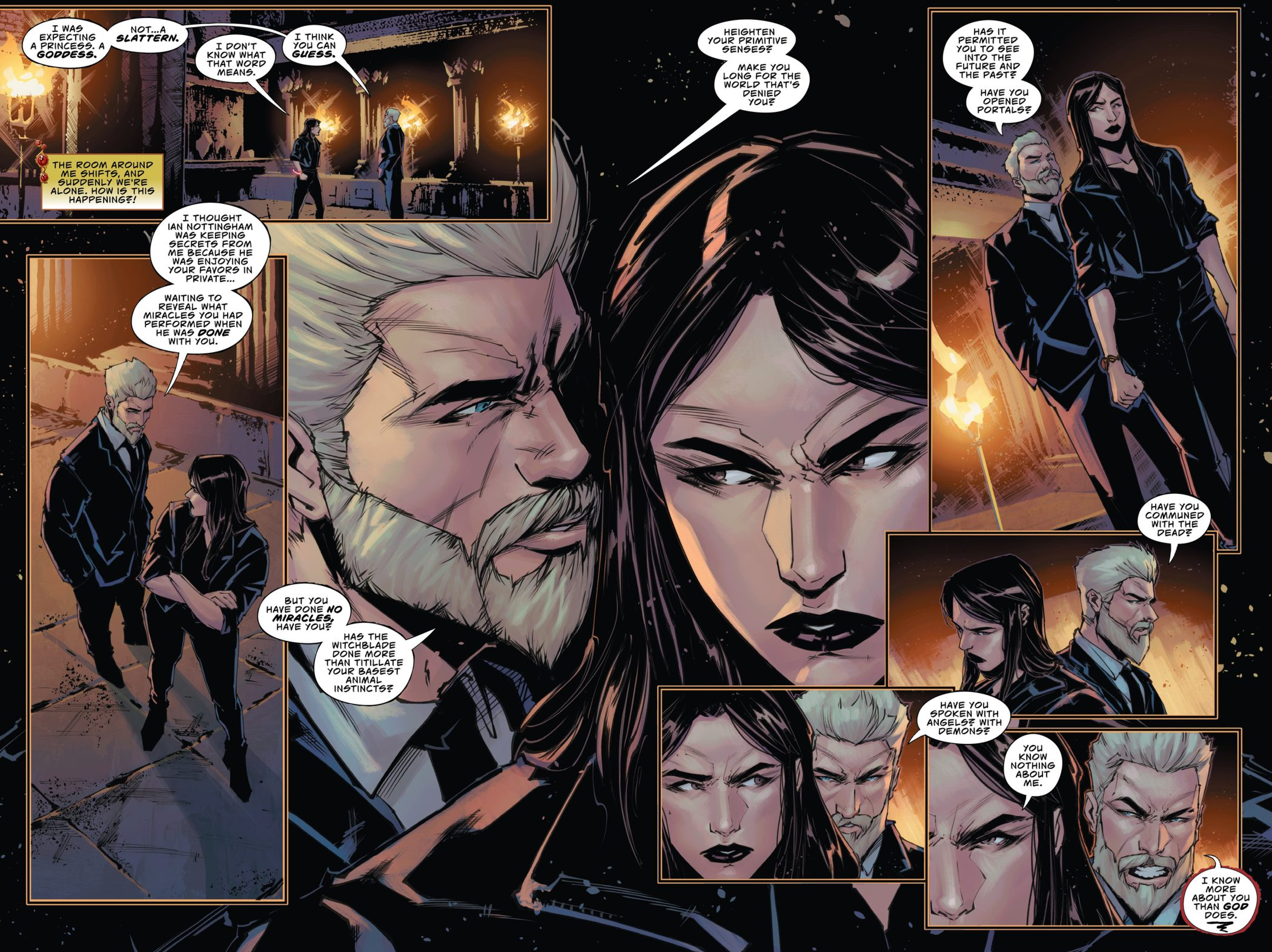

EVERYONE, YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!
LET US WELCOME THE LATEST PRIZE MY FAITHFUL HUNTING DOG HAS BROUGHT ME AT LAST... THE WITCHBLADE!
...IAN BETRAYED ME.

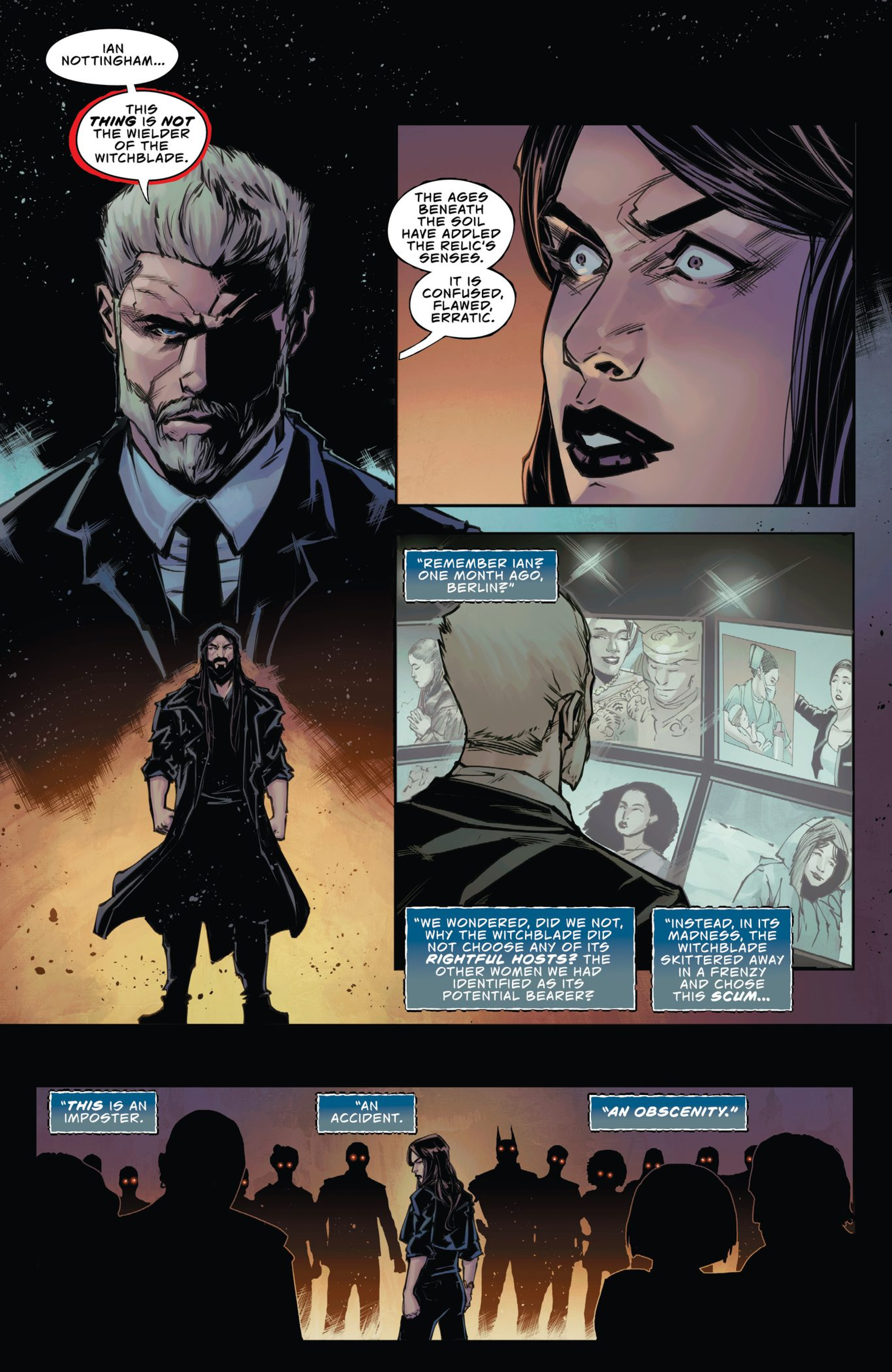

KENNETH IRONS. I'M DETECTIVE PEZZINI OF THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.
I'VE COME TO TALK ABOUT THE MURDER OF MY FATHER.
A MAN IN YOUR EMPLOY GUNNED HIM DOWN--
1101
WELL, I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT.
ALL OF US ARE, OF COURSE, VERY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, DETECTIVE, BUT PEOPLE DO DIE, SO I'VE HEARD.
HIS NAME WAS VINCENT PEZZINI.
SOME BLUE-COLLAR ITALIAN PEASANT? GOOD LORD, NO...COME, NOW, DRINK WITH ME...
AND LOOK AT ALL OF THIS.
SURELY IAN NOTTINGHAM HAS TOLD YOU WHO I AM, AND HOW THIS GAME IS PLAYED?
BE A GOOD GIRL. JOIN MY COLLECTION.
THOSE WHO FALL IN LINE ARE REWARDED FOR THEIR FAITHFUL SERVICE...
THOSE WHO DO NOT...
...WITHOUT EXCEPTION, WISH THEY HAD.

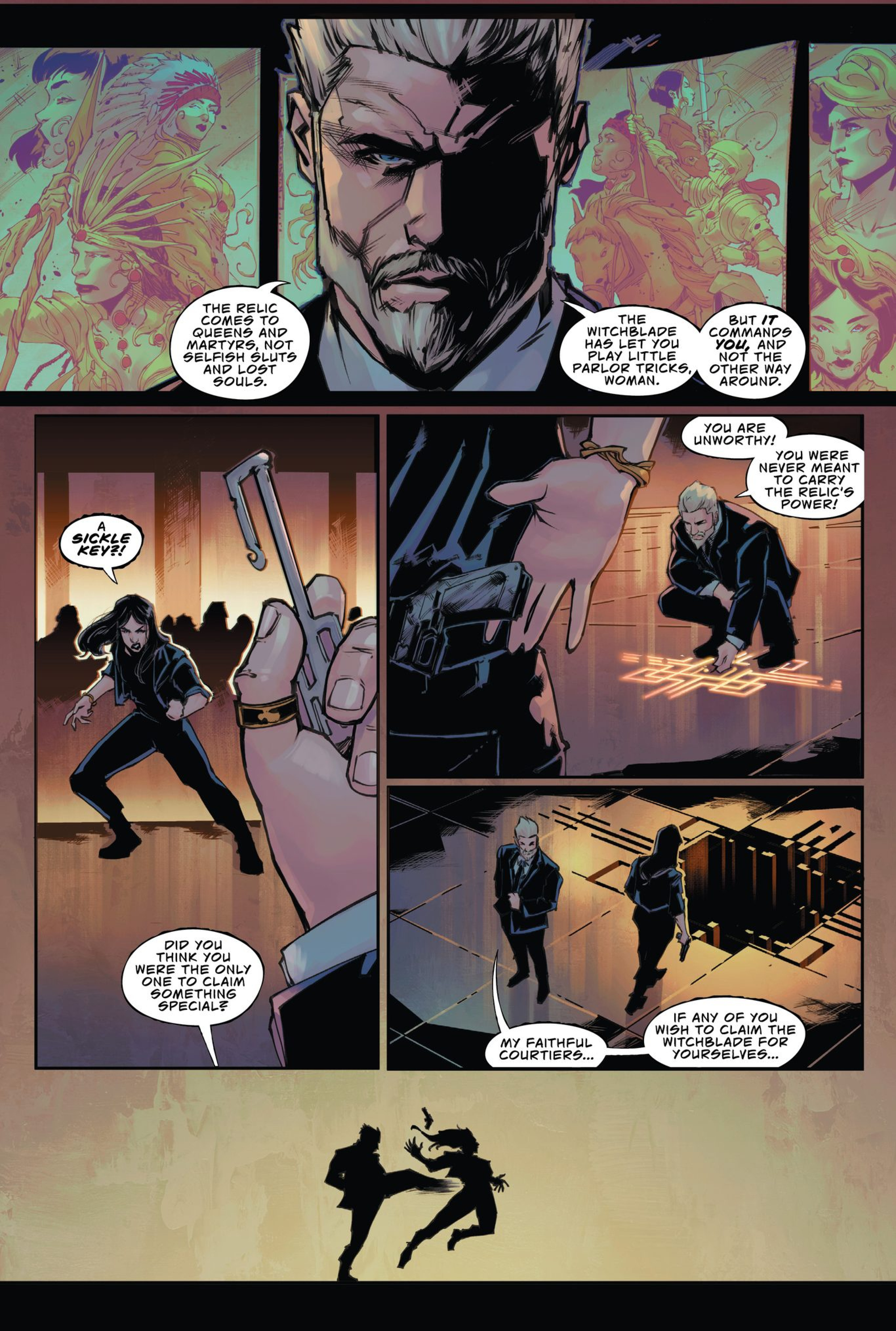

SOME OF THESE FACES, I KNOW DAMN WELL.
QIN SHI HUANG OF THE HONG KONG TRIAD.
AND...SOME KIND OF ☠⚡★@ING WEREWOLF?
I WASN'T A GOOD CATHOLIC GIRL.
I TRIED TO BE. I ***WANTED*** TO TRY TO BE.
JONATHAN CRALL, THE FIFTH STREET CANNIBAL.
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT MASS, AND SUNDAY NIGHTS WITH MY GRANDMOTHER...
I STILL KNOW MY SCRIPTURE.
A WOMAN WITH A...A WHOLE-ASS BUG ON HER FACE.
ALEXANDER NOVOKHODKO, WAITING OUT THE WAR IN STYLE.
AND A--IDK, WARLOCK?
GRIMALDO "THE REAPER" RAMIREZ.
AND...CHRIST, I DON'T EVEN FRICKING KNOW.
"AGAIN, THE DEVIL TOOK CHRIST TO A VERY HIGH MOUNTAIN AND SHOWED HIM ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD AND THEIR GLORY. 'ALL THIS I WILL GIVE YOU,' HE SAID, 'IF YOU WILL FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP ME.'"
JESUS SAYS, "GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN."
*BUT **I** SAY--*

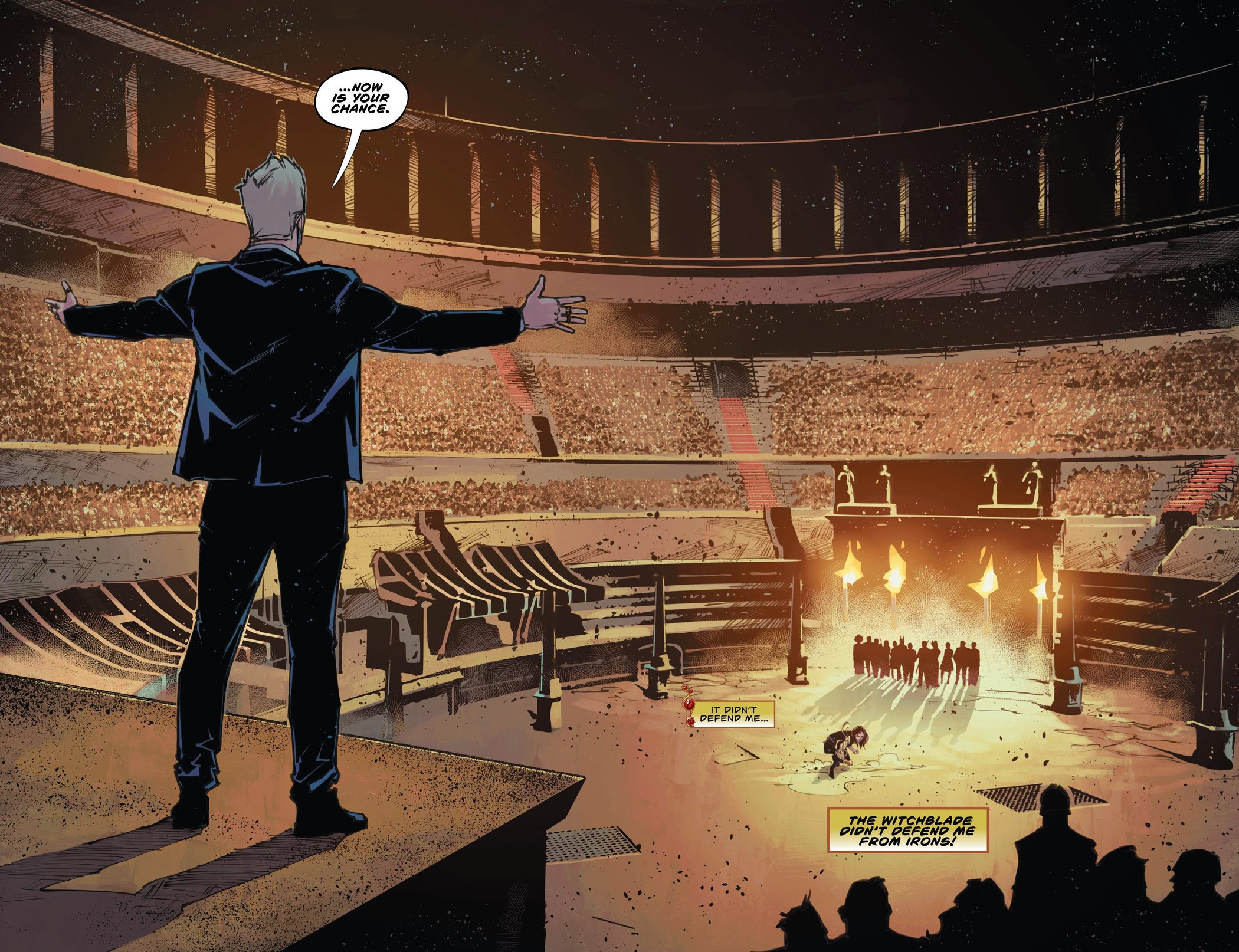

WHY DON'T YOU KISS MY SWEET FAT PINK 💣☆ƒ#✳, YOU @✹ϟ☠★, ☠ƒ💣☆#?!

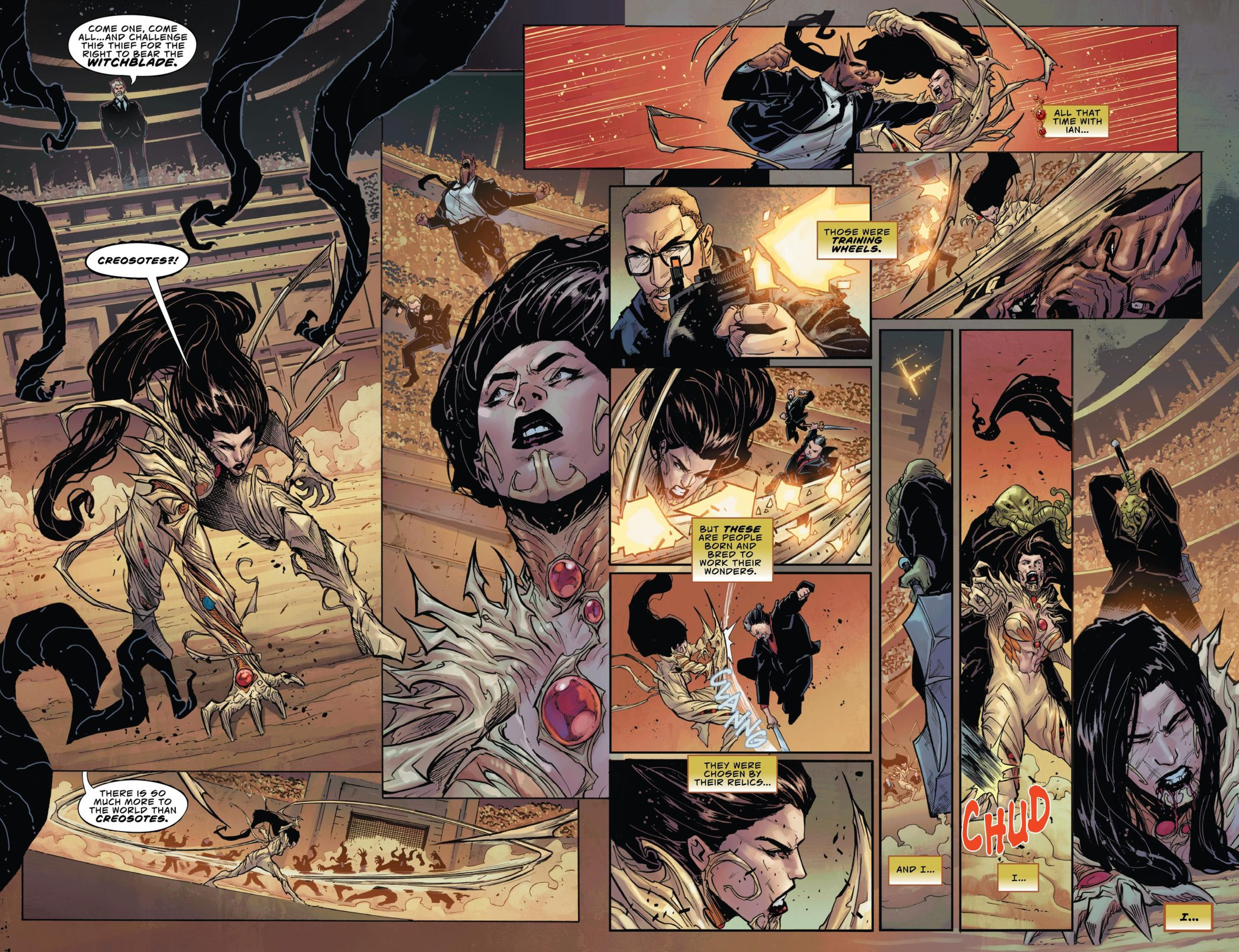

HAHAHA!
HA HA! HA! HA!
IAN...*THIS* IS WHAT YOU BRING ME?
HA! HA! HA HA!
I LET YOU KEEP TRACK OF THE RELIC AND ITS HOST!
MY EYES WATCHED HER IN HER OWN RAT'S NEST OF A HOME, BUT I ASSUMED WHEN SHE WAS WITH *YOU,* IAN--
HA! HA! HA HA!
--AND SHE WAS *SO OFTEN* WITH YOU--
--THAT SHE SHOWED MORE...
...*PROMISE.*

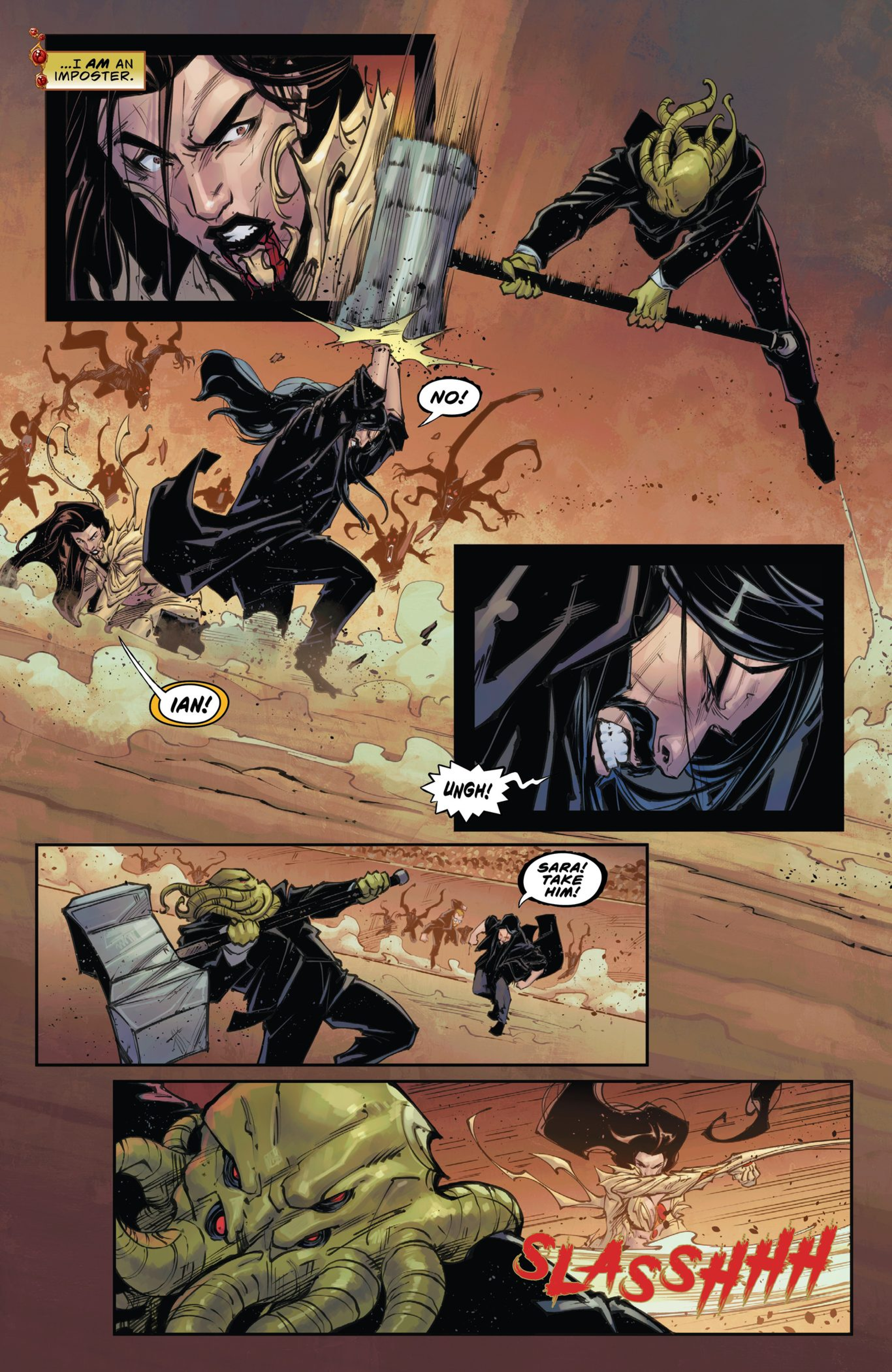

I WAS EXPECTING A PRINCESS. A GODDESS.
NOT...A SLATTERN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT WORD MEANS.
I THINK YOU CAN GUESS.
THE ROOM AROUND ME SHIFTS, AND SUDDENLY WE'RE ALONE. HOW IS THIS HAPPENING?!
I THOUGHT IAN NOTTINGHAM WAS KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME BECAUSE HE WAS ENJOYING YOUR FAVORS IN PRIVATE...
WAITING TO REVEAL WHAT MIRACLES YOU HAD PERFORMED WHEN HE WAS DONE WITH YOU.
BUT YOU HAVE DONE NO MIRACLES, HAVE YOU?
HAS THE WITCHBLADE DONE MORE THAN TITILLATE YOUR BASEST ANIMAL INSTINCTS?
HEIGHTEN YOUR PRIMITIVE SENSES?
MAKE YOU LONG FOR THE WORLD THAT'S DENIED YOU?
HAS IT PERMITTED YOU TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE AND THE PAST?
HAVE YOU OPENED PORTALS?
HAVE YOU COMMUNED WITH THE DEAD?
HAVE YOU SPOKEN WITH ANGELS? WITH DEMONS?
YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME.
I KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU THAN GOD DOES.

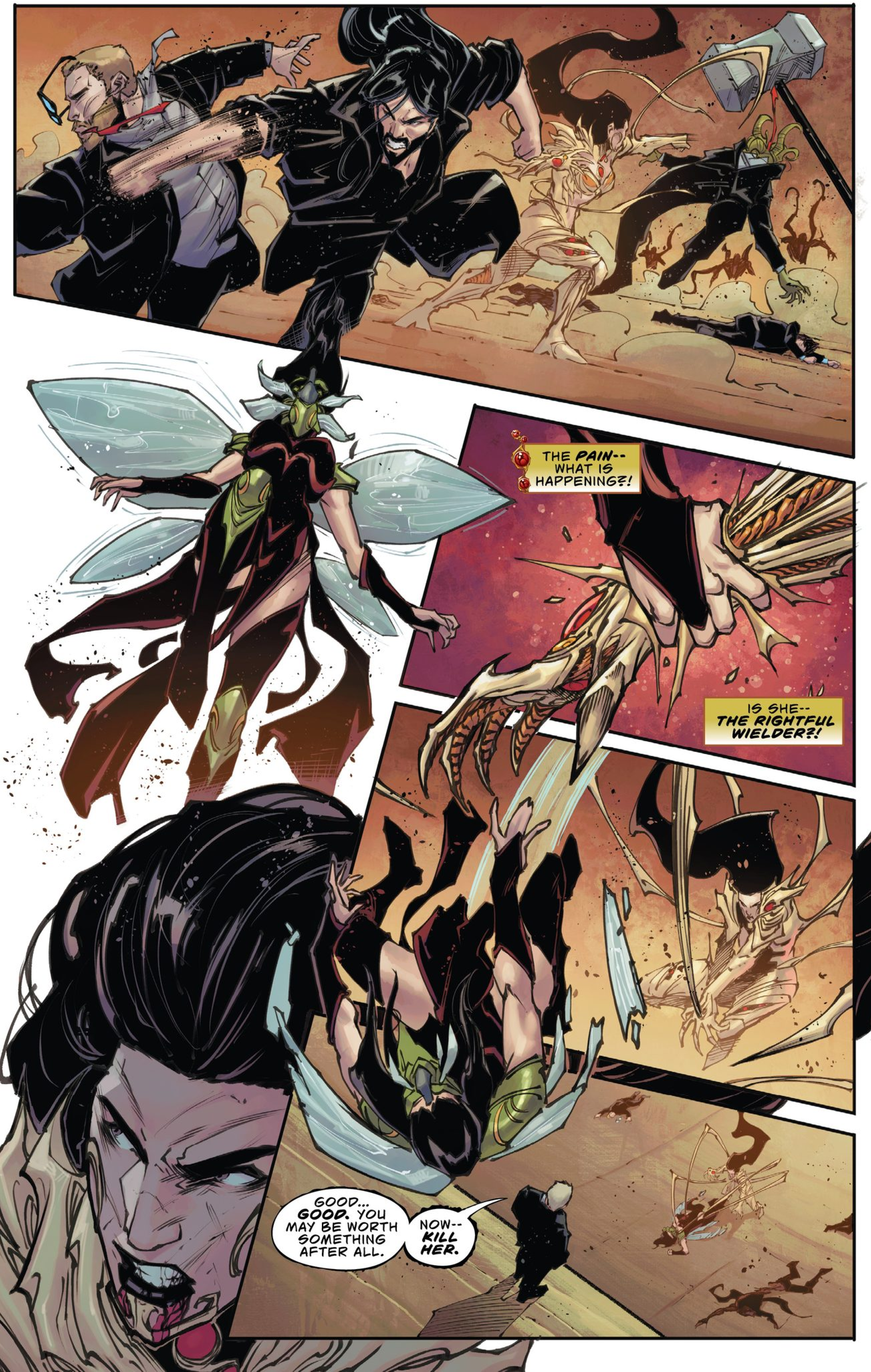

IAN NOTTINGHAM...
THIS *THING* IS *NOT* THE WIELDER OF THE WITCHBLADE.
THE AGES BENEATH THE SOIL HAVE ADDLED THE RELIC'S SENSES.
IT IS CONFUSED, FLAWED, ERRATIC.
"REMEMBER IAN? ONE MONTH AGO, BERLIN?"
"WE WONDERED, DID WE NOT, WHY THE WITCHBLADE DID NOT CHOOSE ANY OF ITS *RIGHTFUL HOSTS?* THE OTHER WOMEN WE HAD IDENTIFIED AS ITS POTENTIAL BEARER?
"INSTEAD, IN ITS *MADNESS*, THE WITCHBLADE SKITTERED AWAY IN A FRENZY AND CHOSE THIS *SCUM*...
"*THIS* IS AN IMPOSTER.
"AN ACCIDENT.
"AN OBSCENITY."

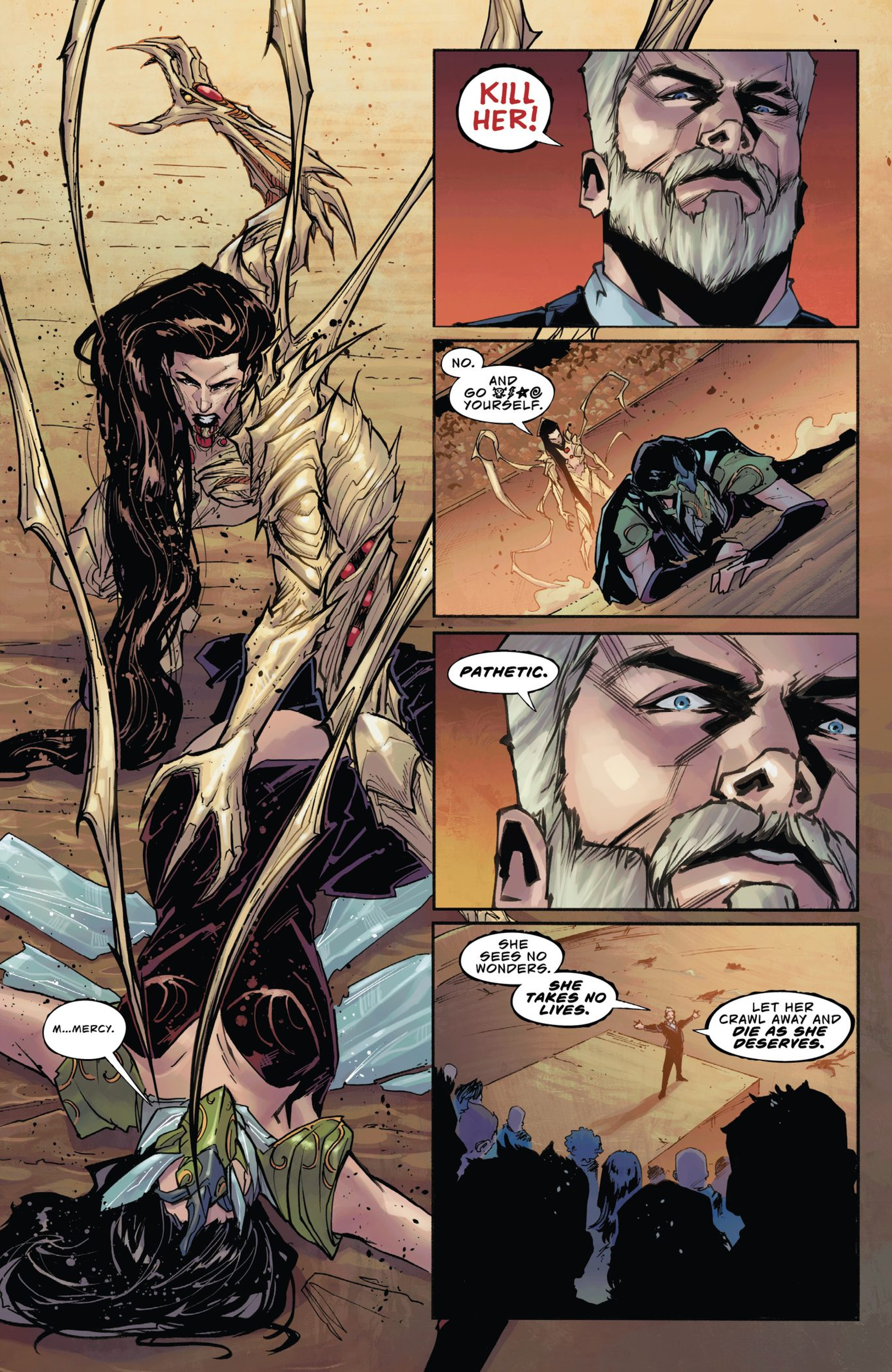

THE RELIC COMES TO QUEENS AND MARTYRS, NOT SELFISH SLUTS AND LOST SOULS.
THE WITCHBLADE HAS LET YOU PLAY LITTLE PARLOR TRICKS, WOMAN.
BUT IT COMMANDS YOU, AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
A SICKLE KEY?!
DID YOU THINK YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE TO CLAIM SOMETHING SPECIAL?
YOU ARE UNWORTHY!
YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO CARRY THE RELIC'S POWER!
MY FAITHFUL COURTIERS...
IF ANY OF YOU WISH TO CLAIM THE WITCHBLADE FOR YOURSELVES...

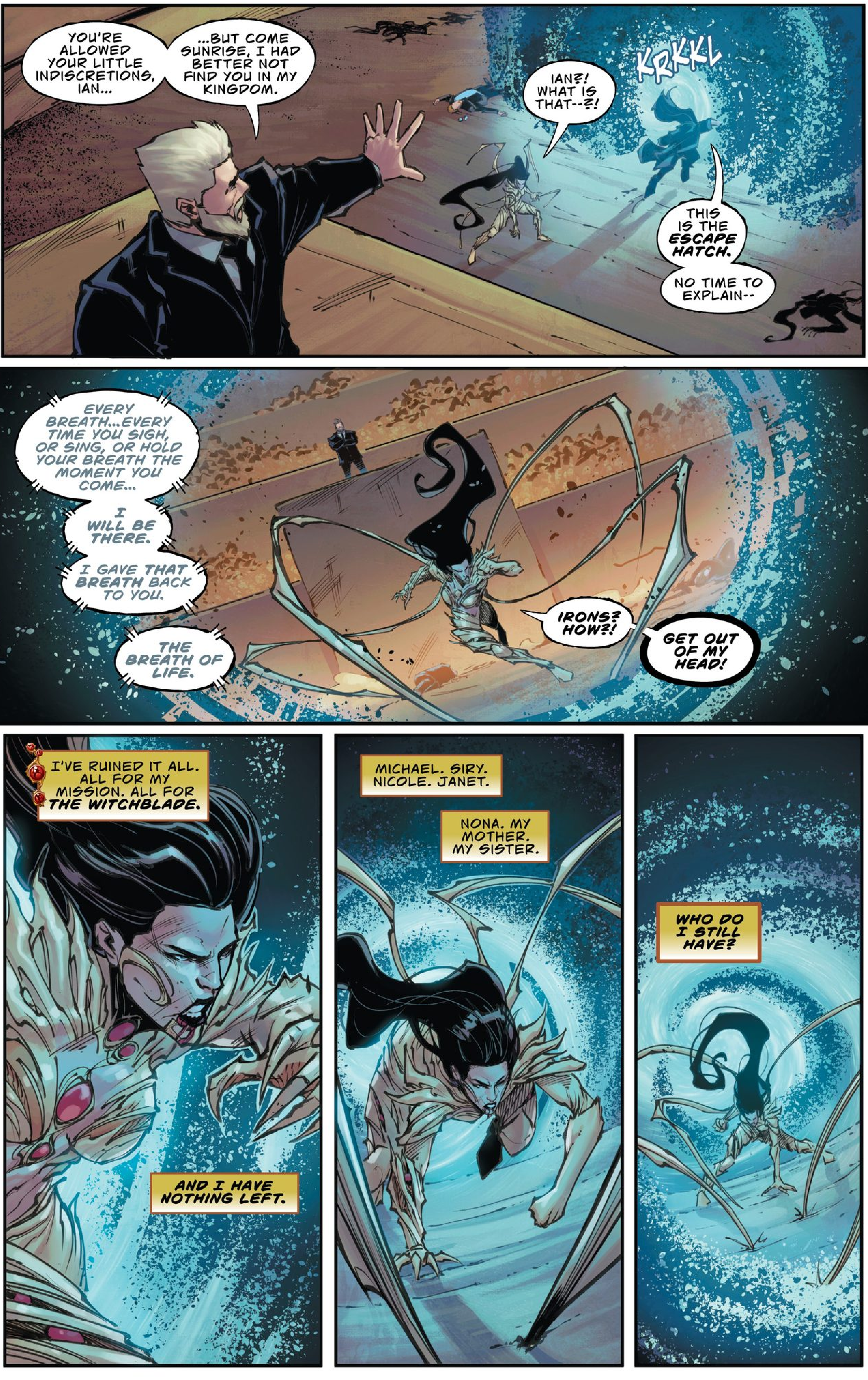

...NOW IS YOUR CHANCE.
IT DIDN'T DEFEND ME...
THE WITCHBLADE DIDN'T DEFEND ME FROM IRONS!

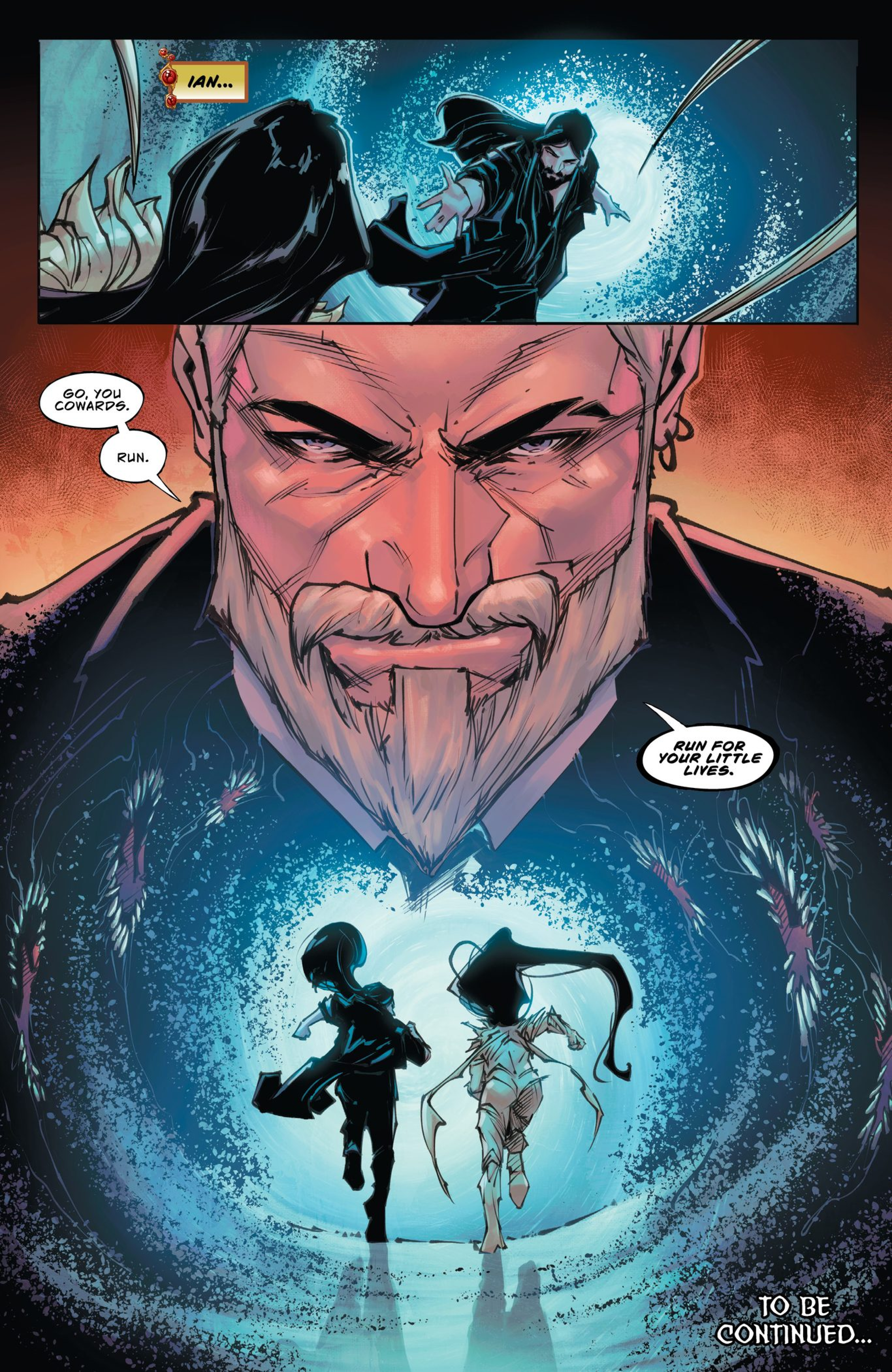

COME ONE, COME ALL...AND CHALLENGE THIS THIEF FOR THE RIGHT TO BEAR THE **WITCHBLADE.**
CREOSOTES?!
THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO THE WORLD THAN **CREOSOTES.**
ALL THAT TIME WITH IAN...
THOSE WERE ***TRAINING WHEELS.***
BUT ***THESE*** ARE PEOPLE BORN AND BRED TO WORK THEIR WONDERS.
CLANNG
THEY WERE CHOSEN BY THEIR RELICS...
AND I...
CHUD
I...
I...

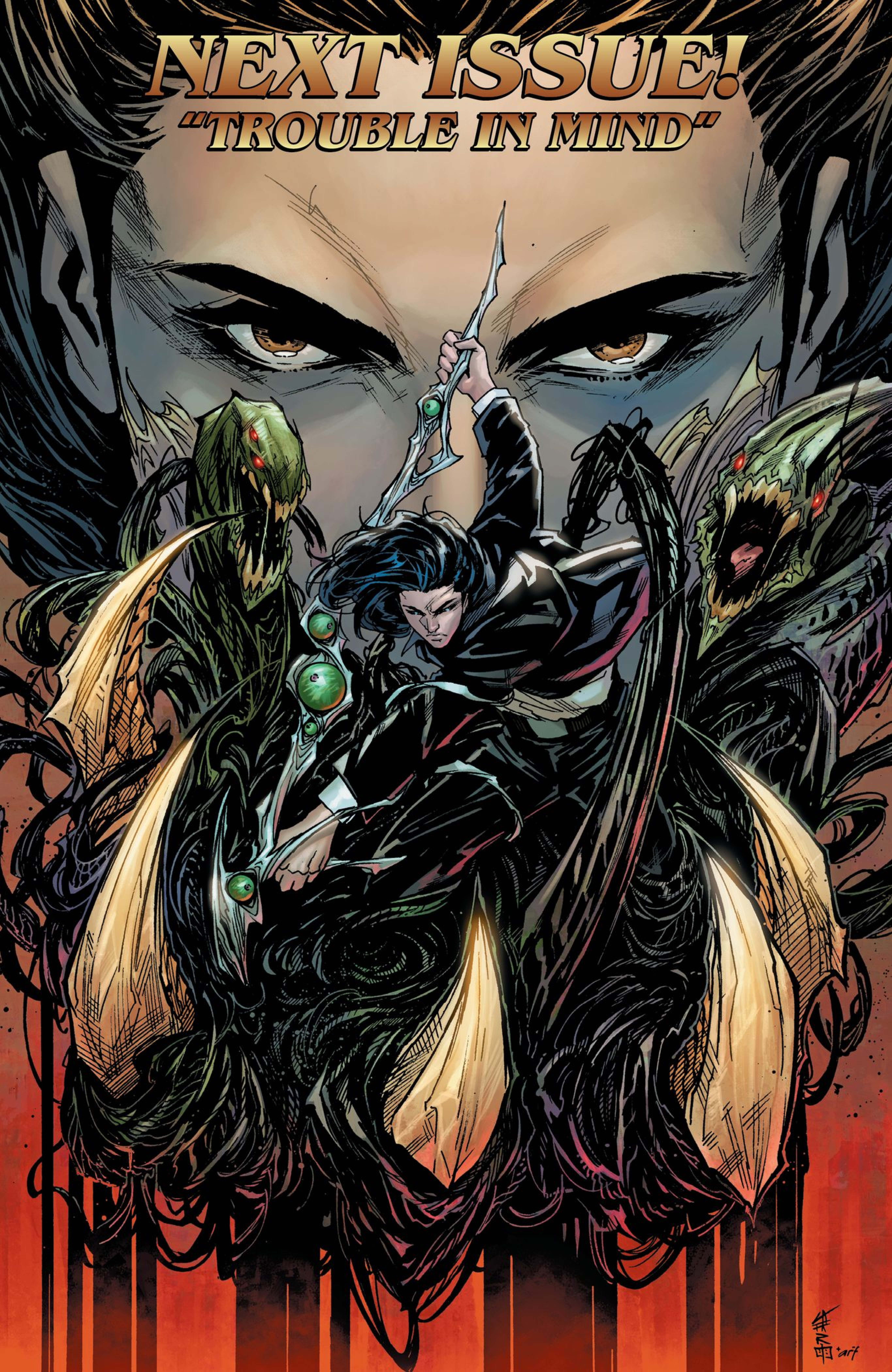

...I AM AN IMPOSTER.
NO!
IAN!
UNGH!
SARA! TAKE HIM!
SLASSHHH


THE PAIN-- WHAT IS HAPPENING?!
IS SHE-- THE RIGHTFUL WIELDER?!
GOOD... GOOD. YOU MAY BE WORTH SOMETHING AFTER ALL.
NOW-- KILL HER.

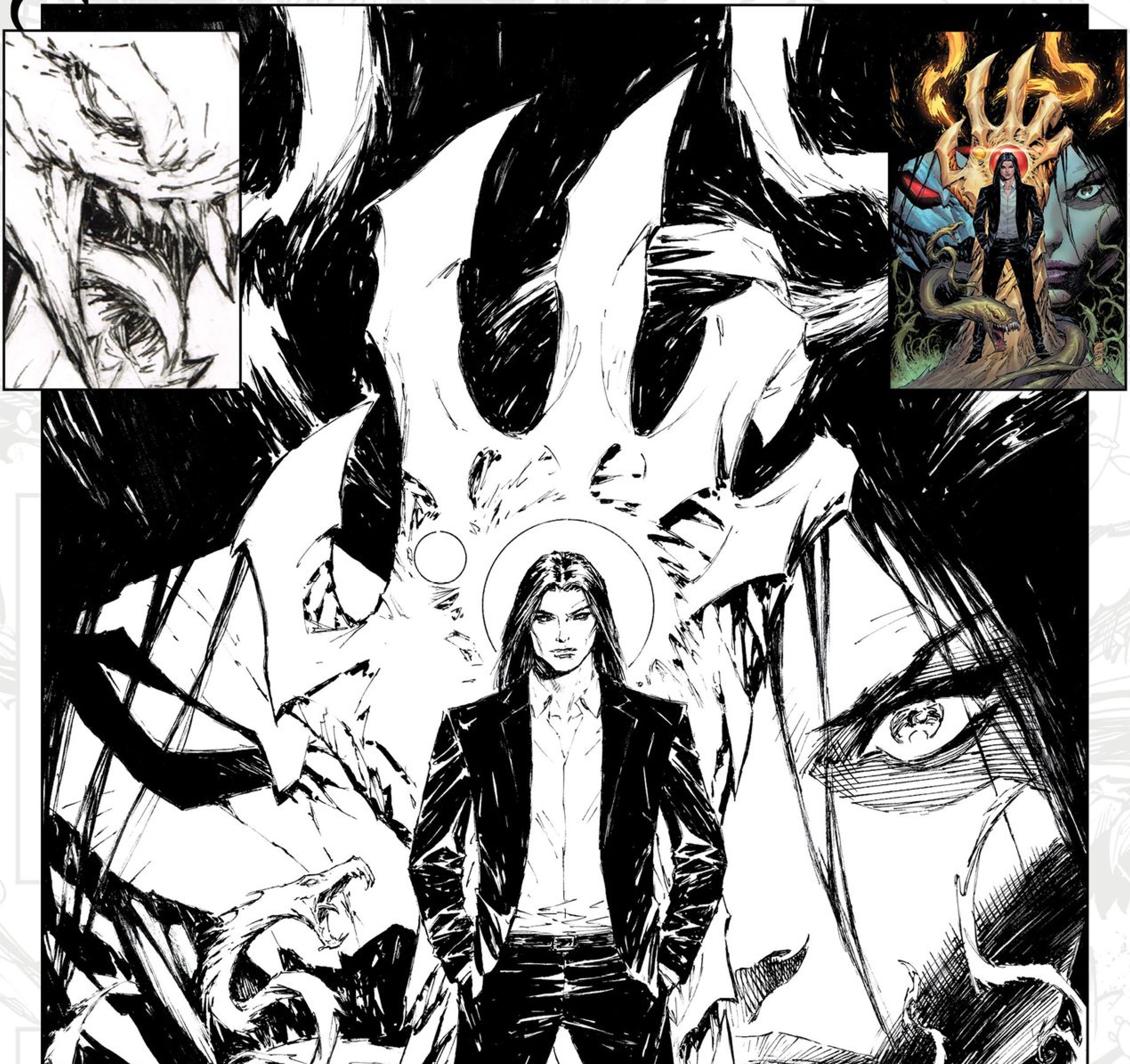

M...MERCY.
KILL HER!
NO.
AND GO ☠⚡★@ YOURSELF.
PATHETIC.
SHE SEES NO WONDERS. *SHE TAKES NO LIVES.*
LET HER CRAWL AWAY AND *DIE AS SHE DESERVES.*


YOU'RE ALLOWED YOUR LITTLE INDISCRETIONS, IAN...
...BUT COME SUNRISE, I HAD BETTER NOT FIND YOU IN MY KINGDOM.
IAN?! WHAT IS THAT--?!
KRKKL
THIS IS THE ESCAPE HATCH.
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN--
EVERY BREATH...EVERY TIME YOU SIGH, OR SING, OR HOLD YOUR BREATH THE MOMENT YOU COME...
I WILL BE THERE.
I GAVE THAT BREATH BACK TO YOU.
THE BREATH OF LIFE.
IRONS? HOW?!
GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
I'VE RUINED IT ALL. ALL FOR MY MISSION. ALL FOR THE WITCHBLADE.
AND I HAVE NOTHING LEFT.
MICHAEL. SIRY. NICOLE. JANET.
NONA. MY MOTHER. MY SISTER.
WHO DO I STILL HAVE?


IAN...
GO, YOU COWARDS.
RUN.
RUN FOR YOUR LITTLE LIVES.
TO BE CONTINUED...

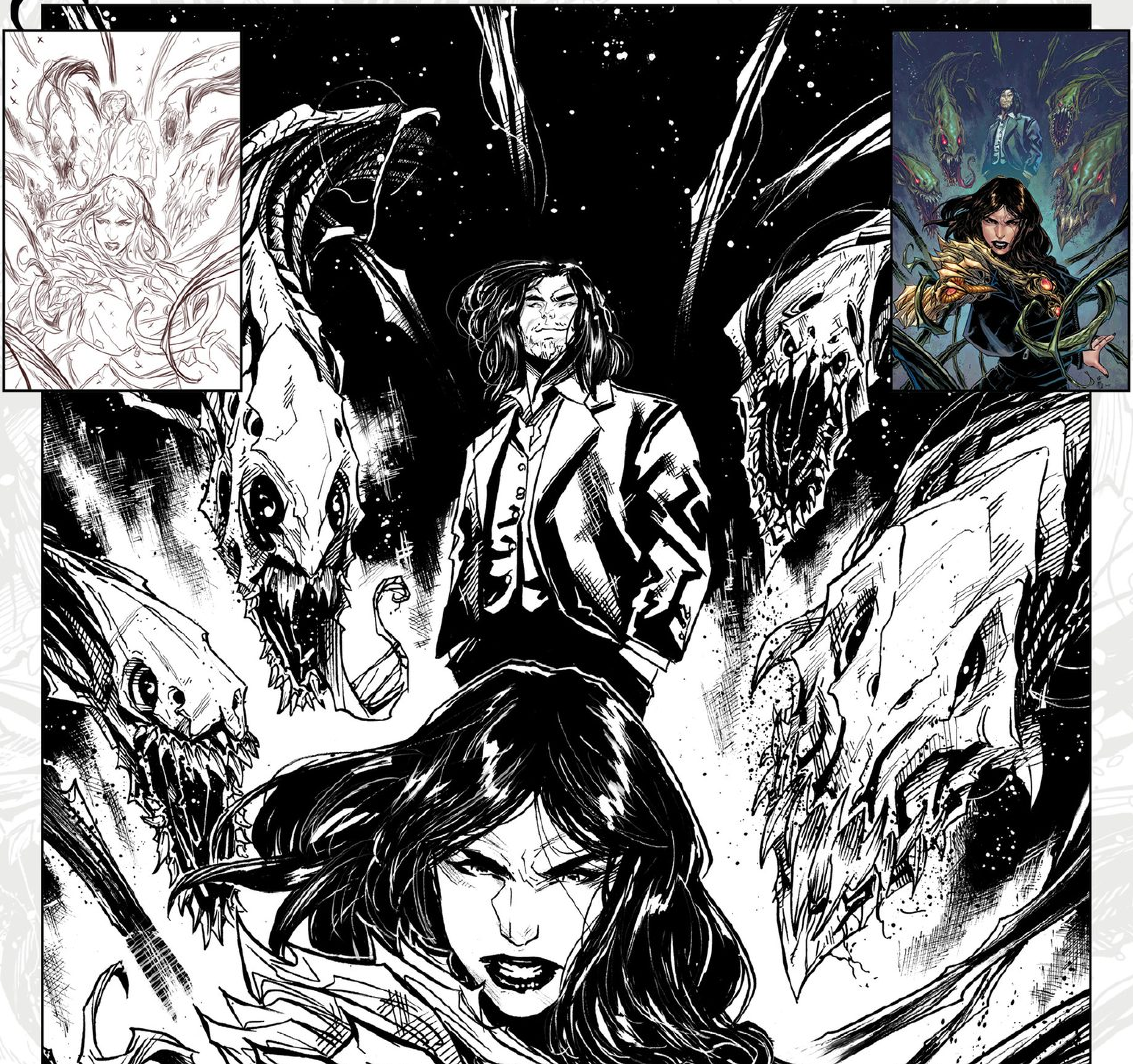

NEXT ISSUE!
"TROUBLE IN MIND"

WITCHBLADE #7 Gallery • Cover A Process



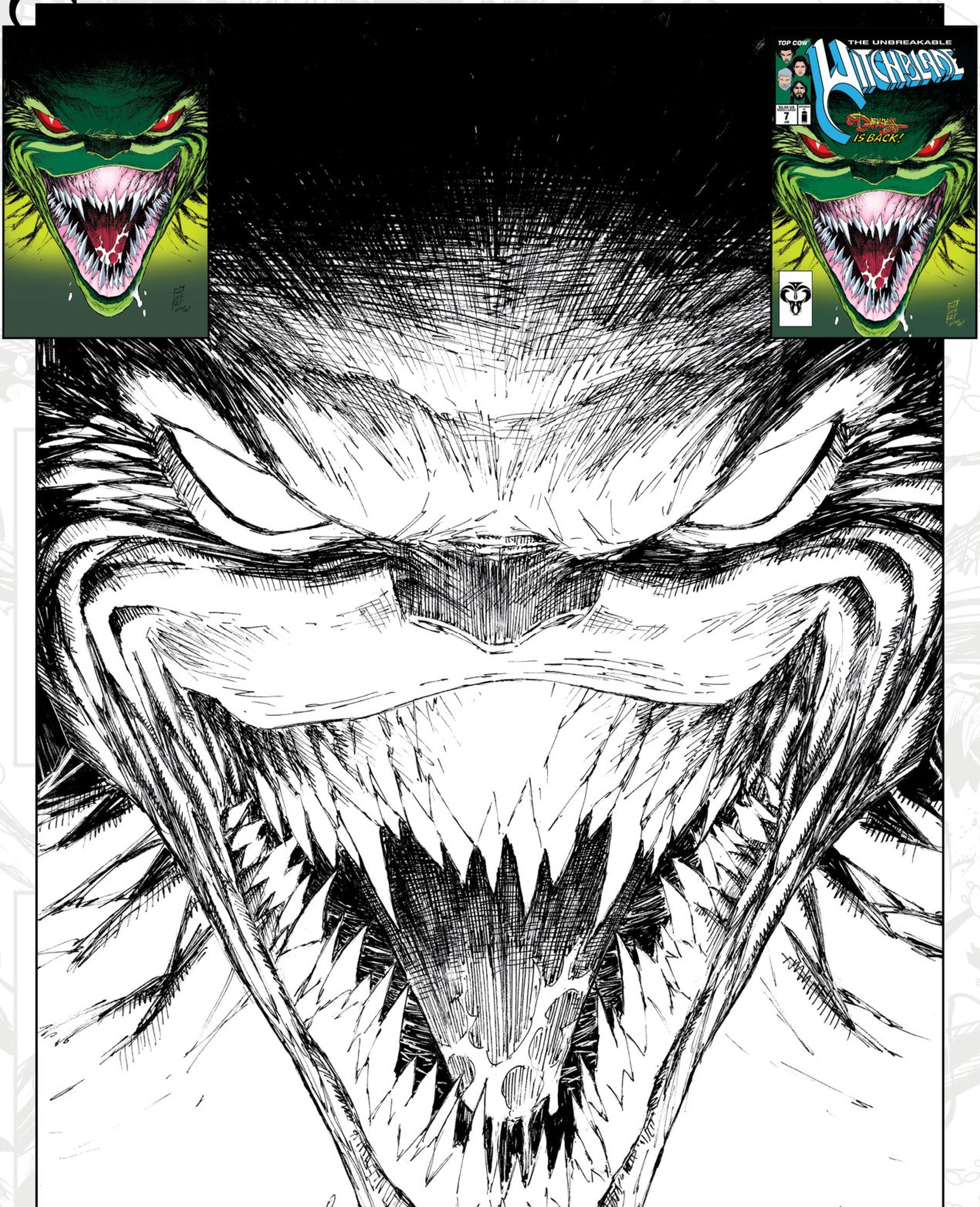
Witchblade #7, Cover A and Top Cow Store Foil Exclusive, process from detail snapshot, line art to colors
Art by **Marc Silvestri** and **Arif Prianto**

WITCHBLADE #7 Gallery • Cover B Process



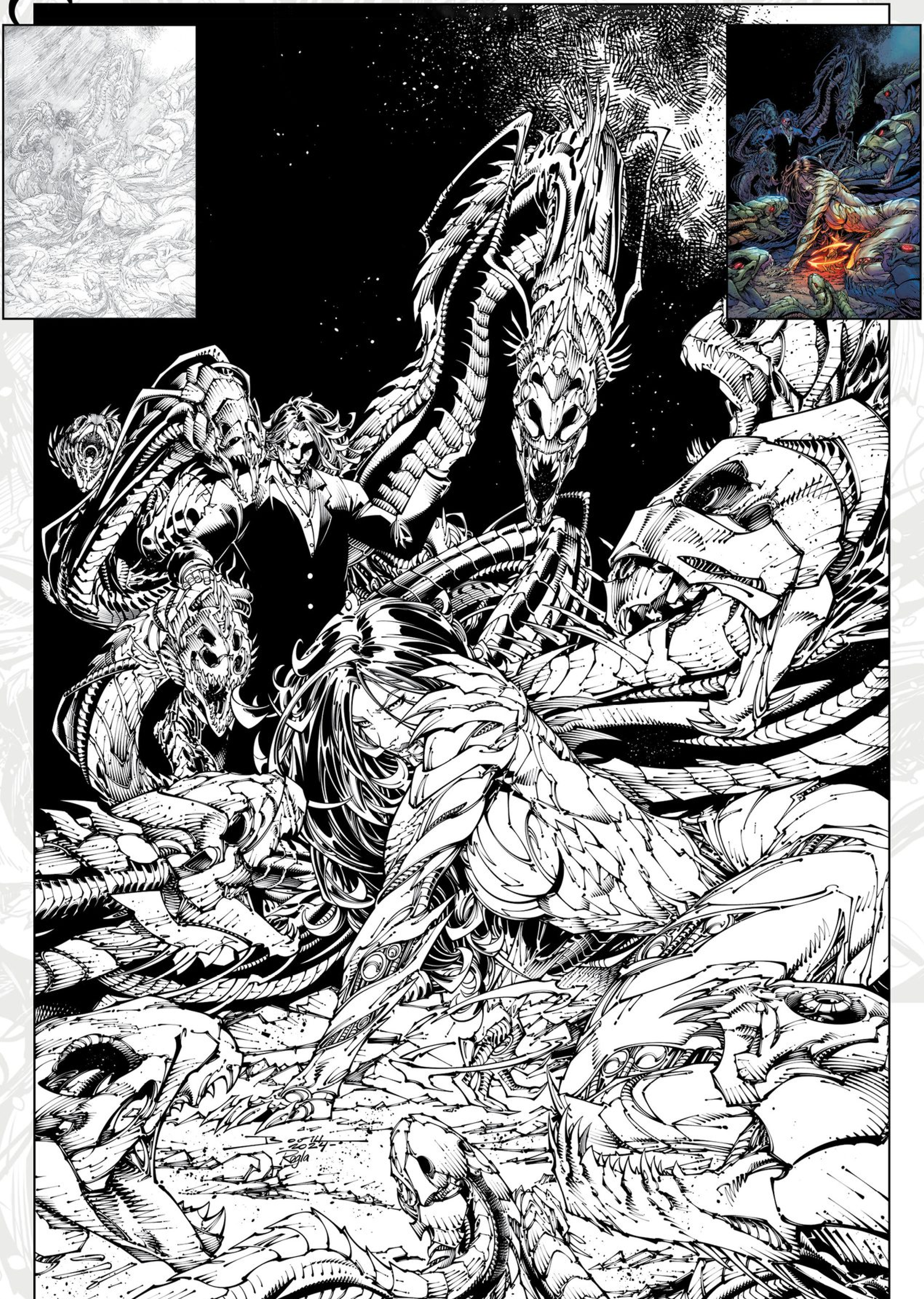
Witchblade #7, Cover B, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**

WITCHBLADE #7 Gallery • Cover C Process


TOP COW
THE UNBREAKABLE
WITCHBLADE
7
$3.99 US
The Darkness IS BACK!
SILVESTRI AFTER ME!

Witchblade #7, Cover C Homage Variant, process from left; uncropped colors, line art to Homage trade dress
Art by **Marc Silvestri** and **Phil Smith**

WITCHBLADE #7 Gallery • Cover D Process


Booth 2024 Regla

Witchblade #7, Cover D, process from pencils, line art to colors
Art by **Brett Booth**, **Sal Regla** and **Arif Prianto**

Creative Team

Marguerite Bennett is a GLAAD-nominated, *New York Times*-bestselling comic book writer based in Los Angeles.

Her credits include DC Comics' *Bombshells, Batwoman* and *RWBY*, along with *Animosity*, *Horde*, and *Insexts* through Aftershock Comics, and *MOTHER OF MADNESS* with *Game of Thrones* superstar Emilia Clarke for Image Comics. She has written *Mighty Morphin Power Ranger*s for Boom Studios, *Josie and the Pussycats* through Archie, *A-Force* and *Years of Future Past* at Marvel, *Red Sonja* and *Sheena* from Dynamite, and the indie horror darling *The Lot* for Bad Idea.

She is the lead writer of *Ark: The Animated Serie*s from Studio Wildcard.

Giuseppe Cafaro is an Italian artist who is based in Caserta, Italy. He started his professional career with the Italian publisher GGStudio, and right after, in 2012, he started to work for Aspen Comics on books like *Soulfire, Fathom: Kiani* and *Trish out of Water*, and Zenescope Entertainment as a cover artist for several years.

He worked over the last 10 years with other publishers, like DC Comics, on *Suicide Squad* and *Catwoman*, and Dynamite Entertainment, on *Red Sonja* and *Vampirella*. He also worked on graphic novels for Boom Studios based on the *Power Rangers* franchise.

In 2021, he collaborated with Tim Seeley and Steve Orlando on *LOADED BIBLE* for Image Comics. Also, he worked on some short stories for Heavy Metal with Blake Northcott and with Phil Smith for the book *Brik Jones: Attorney for Earth*, for his publisher Fighting Lion Comics.

Arif Prianto followed his dreams of working in comics and began his career as a professional colorist in 2007. Since then he has worked on titles from Top Cow Productions, Inc on *WITCHBLADE, THE DARKNESS*, for DC on *Batman & The Joker, Dark Knights of Steel,* and for Marvel on *Venom* and *Spider Woman*. He says that coloring comics is "the best job ever!"

Troy Peteri has lettered everything from *The Avengers, Iron Man, Wolverine, Amazing Spider-Man* and *X-Men* to more recent titles such as *WITCHBLADE, CYBERFORCE,* and *Batman/Wonder Woman: The Brave & The Bold*.

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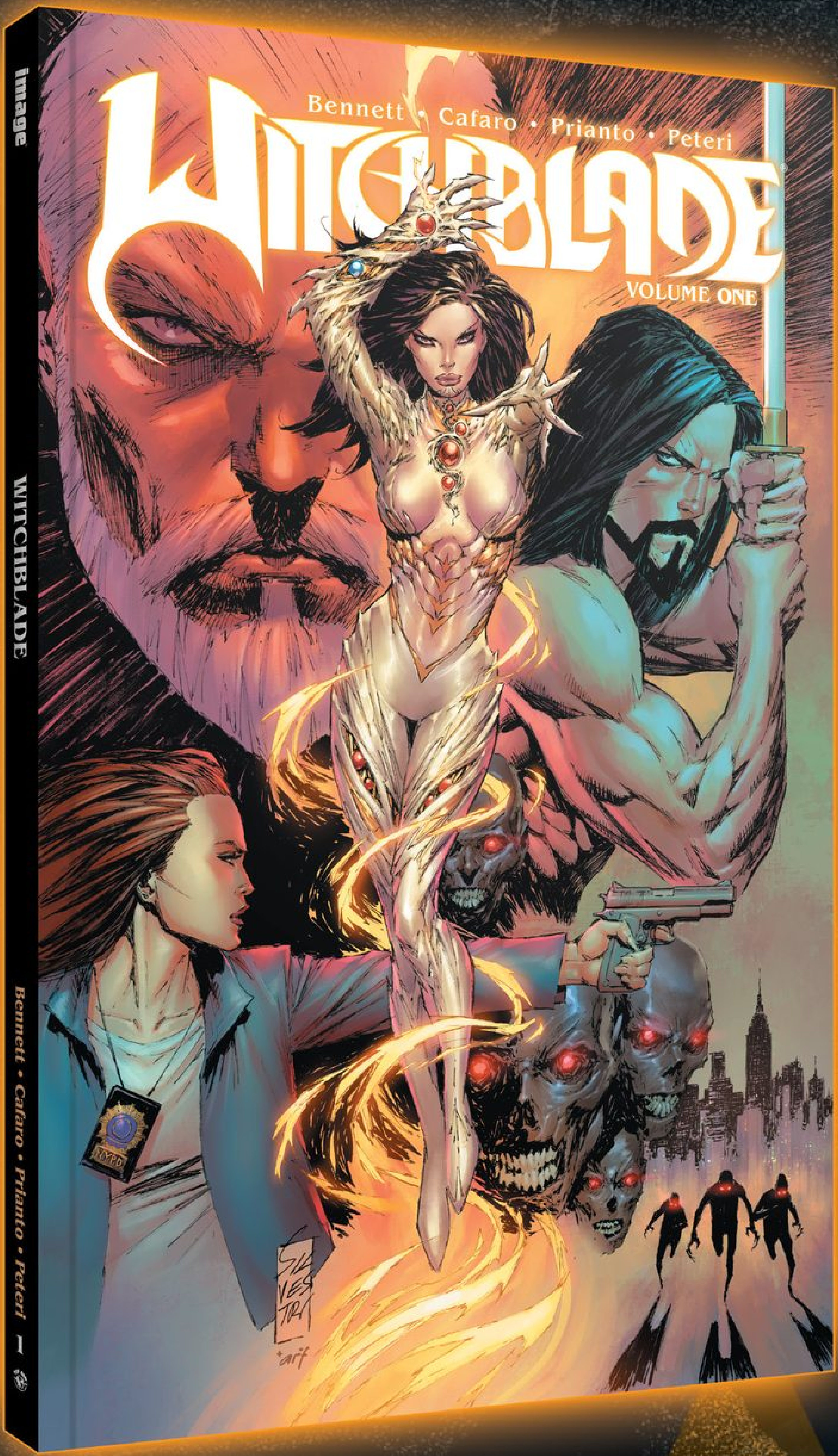
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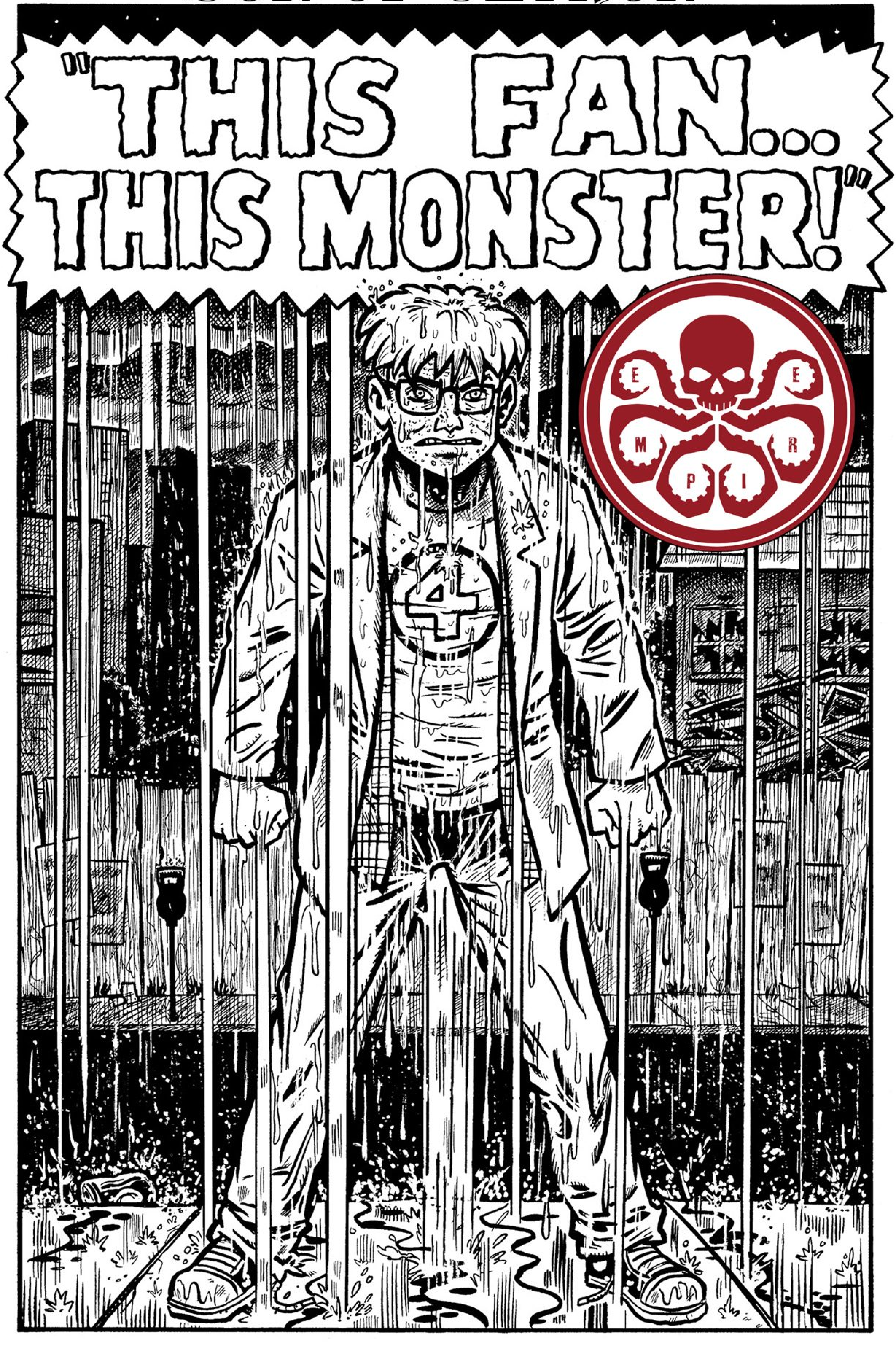
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